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DCPH-P02930 01/26

SUMMARY OF SAFETY INFORMATION

What is ROMVIMZA used for?

ROMVIMZA is a prescription medicine used to treat adults with symptomatic tenosynovial giant cell tumor (TGCT) when surgery may make the symptoms worse or cause severe problems.

It is not known if ROMVIMZA is safe and effective in children.

What is the most important information I should know about ROMVIMZA?

ROMVIMZA can cause serious side effects, including liver problems. Increased liver enzymes in your blood are common with ROMVIMZA.

Your healthcare provider will do blood tests to check for liver problems:

- before starting treatment with ROMVIMZA,
- 2 times each month for the first 2 months of treatment,
- then 1 time every 3 months for the first year of treatment and as clinically indicated thereafter.

If you develop liver problems during treatment with ROMVIMZA, your healthcare provider may temporarily stop treatment, decrease your dose, or permanently stop treatment depending on how severe your liver problems are.

- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you develop any signs or symptoms of liver problems during treatment with ROMVIMZA including yellowing of your skin or the white part of your eyes, dark urine, lack or loss of appetite, right upper stomach-area (abdomen) pain or tenderness, feeling overly tired, nausea, vomiting, fever, rash, and itching.

Before taking ROMVIMZA, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or had liver problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. ROMVIMZA can harm your unborn baby.

Females who are able to become pregnant:

- Your healthcare provider will do a pregnancy test before you start treatment with ROMVIMZA.
- Use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with ROMVIMZA and for 1 month after the last dose. Talk to your healthcare provider about birth control methods that may be right for you.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant or you think you may be pregnant during treatment with ROMVIMZA.

Males with female partners who are able to become pregnant:

- Use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with ROMVIMZA and for 1 month after the last dose.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if your female partner becomes pregnant or thinks she may be pregnant during treatment with ROMVIMZA.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ROMVIMZA passes into your breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment with ROMVIMZA and for 1 month after the last dose.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Taking ROMVIMZA with certain other medicines may affect the way that ROMVIMZA or the other medicine works and may increase your risk of side effects.

What are the possible side effects of ROMVIMZA?

ROMVIMZA can cause serious side effects.

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about ROMVIMZA?"**
- **Allergic reactions to FD&C Yellow No. 5 and FD&C Yellow No. 6.** ROMVIMZA 20 mg capsules contain the inactive ingredients FD&C Yellow No. 5 (tartrazine) and FD&C Yellow No. 6 (Sunset Yellow FCF). ROMVIMZA 14 mg capsules contain the inactive ingredient FD&C Yellow No. 6 (Sunset Yellow FCF). FD&C Yellow No. 5 (tartrazine) can cause allergic-type reactions (including bronchial asthma) in certain people, especially people who also have an allergy to aspirin. FD&C Yellow No. 6 (Sunset Yellow FCF) can also cause allergic reactions. Tell your healthcare provider if you get hives, rash, or trouble breathing during treatment with ROMVIMZA.

The most common side effects of ROMVIMZA include:

- swelling around your eyes
- tiredness
- rash
- increased cholesterol levels in your blood
- swelling of your hands or feet
- swelling of your face
- decreased white blood cells
- itchy skin

ROMVIMZA may cause fertility problems, which may affect your ability to have children. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have concerns about fertility.

These are not all the possible side effects of ROMVIMZA. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit MedWatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

The risk information provided here is not comprehensive. To learn more, talk about ROMVIMZA with your health care provider or pharmacist. The FDA-approved product labeling can be found at www.ROMVIMZA.com or 1-888-724-3274.

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COVER ARTWORK:
Erin Fong

Fong is a Bay Area–based multidisciplinary artist whose work explores the transformative power of color through printmaking and airbrush painting. She creates bright, uplifting environments and feels that color has the power to heal.

CREATIVE DIRECTION BY NFL CREATIVE

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VS

NEW ENGLAND
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SUPER BOWL LX GAME PROGRAM
Levi's Stadium, February 8, 2026

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Levi's Stadium Seating Map

SUPER BOWL LX CODE OF CONDUCT

THE NFL IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A SAFE, COMFORTABLE, AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL FANS. AS SUCH, FANS ARE REQUIRED TO REFRAIN FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- Behavior that is unruly, disruptive, or illegal in nature.
- Intoxication or other signs of drug or alcohol impairment that result in irresponsible behavior.
- Offensive language or obscene gestures. This includes the use of such language or gestures concerning a person's race, ethnicity, color, gender, religion, creed, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or national origin; or to instigate, incite, or encourage a confrontation or physical assault.
- Interference with the progress of the game (including throwing objects on the field and any unauthorized entry to the field of play and restricted areas).
- Levi's Stadium is a drug-free and smoke-free environment. The use of drugs (including marijuana), other illegal substances, and/or smoking (including vaporizers, e-cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco) is strictly prohibited.
- Failure to follow instruction of Super Bowl personnel.
- Verbal or physical harassment of all fans.
- Scalping, improper resale of tickets, misuse of tickets/credentials, or illegal merchandise sales.
- Conduct that results in damage to the stadium or other personal property.
- Failure to comply with any of the parking guidelines.
- Violations of any stadium policies, Clark County ordinances, state, or federal laws.

If a fan violates the Fan Code of Conduct or fails to identify themselves to stadium staff, the fan is subject to penalty, including being barred. The ticket holder of record may be subject to disciplinary action measures, including ticket suspension.

Guests should be ready to display their tickets, passes, and/or credentials to the Levi's Stadium Team Members to verify their seat locations at any time.

NEED ASSISTANCE?
Guests are encouraged to report any issues or concerns during a game or event. If you require assistance during gameday or wish to report a Code of Conduct violation, stadium staff can be reached at the Text Message Hotline:

"**SUPPORT**" to **573.549.HELP.**

Fans may also visit one of the Super Bowl Guest Services locations at any point during Super Bowl LX at Levi's Stadium. Guest Services staff will be available to assist.

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Call Guest Services Office at (408) 579-4600

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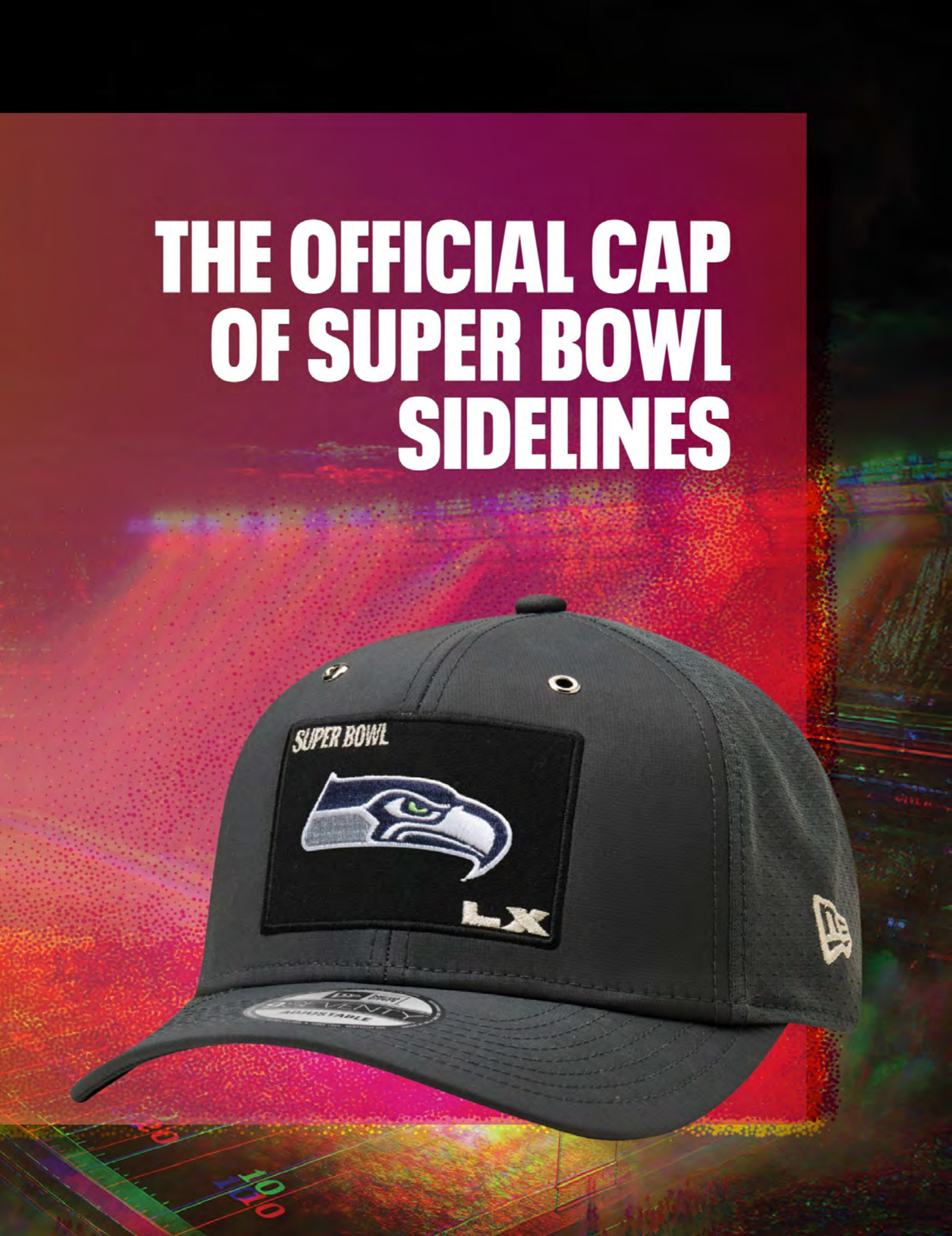

SCOUTING REPORT

NEW ENGLAND
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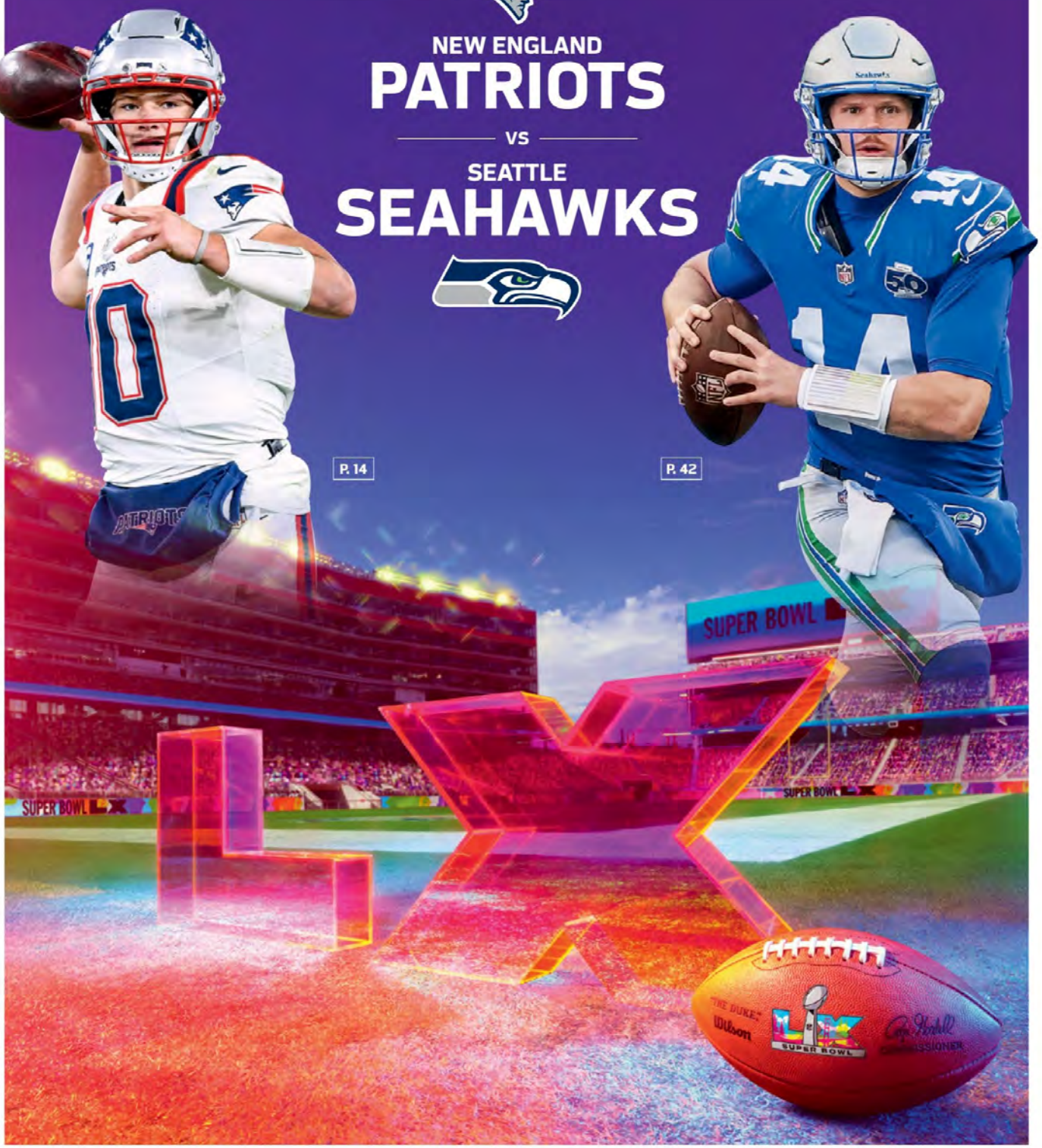

GAMEDAY INFO **DATE** Sunday, February 8 **LOCATION** Levi's Stadium — Santa Clara, CA **KICKOFF** 3:30 p.m. (PT)

NICK WASS/AP IMAGES (left); LINDSEY WASSON/AP IMAGES (right)

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PATRIOTS SET THEIR SIGHTS ON A SEVENTH TITLE

BY MICHAEL PRESTON

SCOUTING REPORT

THE PATRIOTS ARE BACK. A reinvented New England team returns to the game's biggest stage featuring a new generation of stars with an unmistakably familiar presence calling the shots from the sidelines. Incredibly, there have been only a half dozen Super Bowls since the end of the dynasty that saw a relentless Bill Belichick-Tom Brady tandem collect an unprecedented six world championships together.

But now, first-year Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel, a three-time Super Bowl champion linebacker as part of that first wave of legendary New England teams, has enjoyed immediate success in Foxboro.

With expectations modest for 2025, Vrabel stepped in and equaled the best turnaround in NFL history, taking a team coming off back-to-back 4-13 seasons and making a stunning 14-3 statement.

In his second NFL season, Drake Maye has turned in one of the all-time great performances by a Patriots quarterback, leading the league and setting the franchise record for completion percentage (72.0).

ADAM HUNGER/AP IMAGES

An All-Pro defender in 2024, cornerback Christian Gonzalez (left) earned his first Pro Bowl selection this season while leading the Patriots in solo tackles. The debut season for wide receiver Stefon Diggs (above) in a Patriots uniform also marks his first time reaching the Super Bowl and the eighth time he's been to the playoffs.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (17-3) 2025 RESULTS

Sep. 7	vs. RAIDERS	13-20	L
Sep. 14	at DOLPHINS	33-27	W
Sep. 21	vs. STEELERS	14-21	L
Sep. 28	vs. PANTHERS	42-13	W
Oct. 5	at BILLS	23-20	W
Oct. 12	at SAINTS	25-19	W
Oct. 19	at TITANS	31-13	W
Oct. 26	vs. BROWNS	32-13	W
Nov. 2	vs. FALCONS	24-23	W
Nov. 9	at BUCCANEERS	28-23	W
Nov. 13	vs. JETS	27-14	W
Nov. 23	at BENGALS	26-20	W
Dec. 1	vs. GIANTS	33-15	W
Dec. 14	vs. BILLS	31-35	L
Dec. 21	at RAVENS	28-24	W
Dec. 28	at JETS	42-10	W
Jan. 4	vs. DOLPHINS	38-10	W

AFC PLAYOFFS

Jan. 11	vs. CHARGERS	16-3	W
Jan. 18	vs. TEXANS	28-16	W
Jan. 25	at BRONCOS	10-7	W

Such an accomplishment didn't seem likely following an opening-week loss to the Raiders and a Week 3 setback to the Steelers. But the team gained confidence, especially with its Week 5 Sunday night victory at Buffalo, and never looked back while wrestling the AFC East crown away from the Bills. Most impressively, the young squad went a perfect 8-0 on the road during the regular season and then beat the Broncos for the AFC title at one of the toughest venues in the game, Empower Field at Mile High.

Like Belichick before him, Vrabel leads from the front with an MVP-caliber quarterback in Pro Bowler Drake Maye, who in only his second season embraces big plays and heads one of the NFL's most prolific offenses. Vrabel now bids to become the fifth NFL head coach to win the Super Bowl in his debut season with a team.

Even after winning 13 of their final 14 regular-season games, the Patriots still had some doubters. But their playoff run — and how they've taken different routes to victory — should be enough to convince

WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP IMAGES (Gonzalez); JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP IMAGES (Diggs)

Just as his quarterback is following in the footsteps of a legend, so, too, is Patriots tight end Hunter Henry, whose 768 receiving yards this season are the most for New England at that position since Rob Gronkowski in 2017.

anyone that they are talented and mature enough to win it all. They swept aside the Chargers on Wild Card weekend, turned the tables on the Texans' much-vaunted defense by forcing five turnovers of their own in the Divisional round, and then overcame the weather and top-seeded Denver to punch their Super Bowl ticket.

Tied with the Steelers for an NFL-best six Super Bowl triumphs, all won between the 2001 and 2018 seasons, New England is playing for the Vince Lombardi Trophy for an unprecedented 12th time. And to think, the rest of the NFL thought they had seen the last of this formidable franchise for a while.

OFFENSE

There is another familiar face coordinating the fortunes of the offense, that of Josh McDaniels, Brady's muse, who returned this season to take Maye under his wing.

A balanced attack that amassed more than 300 yards in every regular-season game and posted an AFC-best 379.4 yards per game, the Patriots feature a one-two rushing punch to complement Maye, who himself is an adept scrambler and runner.

The result? The Patriots leaped from the bottom of the pile in scoring in 2024 to second in the NFL.

Maye can win with his accuracy and efficiency and avoids interceptions. At age 23, he is the youngest player ever to lead the NFL in completion percentage (72.0 percent), and his 8.9 yards per pass was also first in the league. He finished fourth overall in passing yards (4,394) and was guilty of only eight interceptions.

If there is a familiar look to Maye, it is because he and McDaniels have studied tape of Brady to improve Maye's execution and delved into TB12's thought process from virtuoso victories of yesteryear.

Maye targets savvy playoff veteran Stefon Diggs in key situations. As a result, the four-time Pro Bowler surpassed 1,000 yards receiving for the seventh time in his

New England rookie running back TreVeyon Henderson (above left) tied an NFL record this season by having two games with a pair of rushing touchdowns longer than 50 yards. On a squad featuring the league's No. 2 scoring offense, receiver Mack Hollins (left, No. 13) contributed a pair of TD receptions and running back Rhamondre Stevenson (No. 38) found the end zone nine times.

ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP IMAGES (Henry); STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP IMAGES

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11-year career. Most impressively, he provides the showtime spark that has been absent from Patriots teams of late and has recaptured the elite performances that were commonplace for him before an ACL injury struck in 2024.

"There's an energy to him," says Vrabel of Diggs. "He's been out there. He's been available. He's taking care of his body. And the production has been fantastic. I'm glad that we have him."

While the Patriots' receiving corps isn't packed with household names, resurgent third-year wideout Kayshon Boutte (33 receptions) is an explosive and often spectacular deep threat who notched six touchdowns during the regular season and led the team with an average of 16.7 yards per catch. His starring role in the Divisional round included a touchdown catch pulled from the shadow of elite Texans cornerback Derek Stingley Jr.

Third-round draft pick Kyle Williams offers another outlet downfield, while DeMario Douglas and Mack Hollins are reliable over-the-middle options that defenses have been unable to keep in check. The feel-good factor among the group is Efton Chism III, who has been pressed into unexpected action due to injuries and embodies the Patriots' identity through his tough play.

New England's No. 1 draft pick in 2025, offensive tackle Will Campbell was integral to the Patriots having the No. 4 passing offense in the NFL.

Similar to those great New England teams of old, a pair of tight ends — Hunter Henry and Austin Hooper — play a major role in the offense. Henry is a critical end-zone target who had seven touchdowns during the season and reeled in the score that put the Wild Card game out of reach.

On the ground, big-play specialist TreVeyon Henderson can score from anywhere on the field, complemented by fifth-year monster back Rhamondre Stevenson. The explosive Henderson is the first Patriots rookie since 1998 to surpass 1,000 yards from scrimmage, and he scored four of his nine touchdowns on runs of longer than 50 yards. Stevenson's

SCOUTING REPORT

BEST FOOT FORWARD

With so many of the game's all-time greats having worn the red, white, and blue of the New England Patriots at some point in their careers, one can be forgiven if they can't immediately conjure up the name of the franchise's all-time leading scorer.

But the steady presence of kicker Stephen Gostkowski — who amassed a remarkable 1,775 points in 14 seasons with the Pats — was an integral part of the franchise's run of success that included three Super Bowl titles during his tenure with the team.

Selected by the Patriots in the fourth round of the 2006 NFL Draft, Gostkowski was in the unenviable position of replacing Adam Vinatieri, whose last-second field goals in Super Bowls XXVI and XXXVIII secured New England's first two Lombardi Trophies.

Undaunted, Gostkowski quickly proved himself as a foot to be reckoned with, his 103 points during the '06 season making him the NFL's highest-scoring rookie.

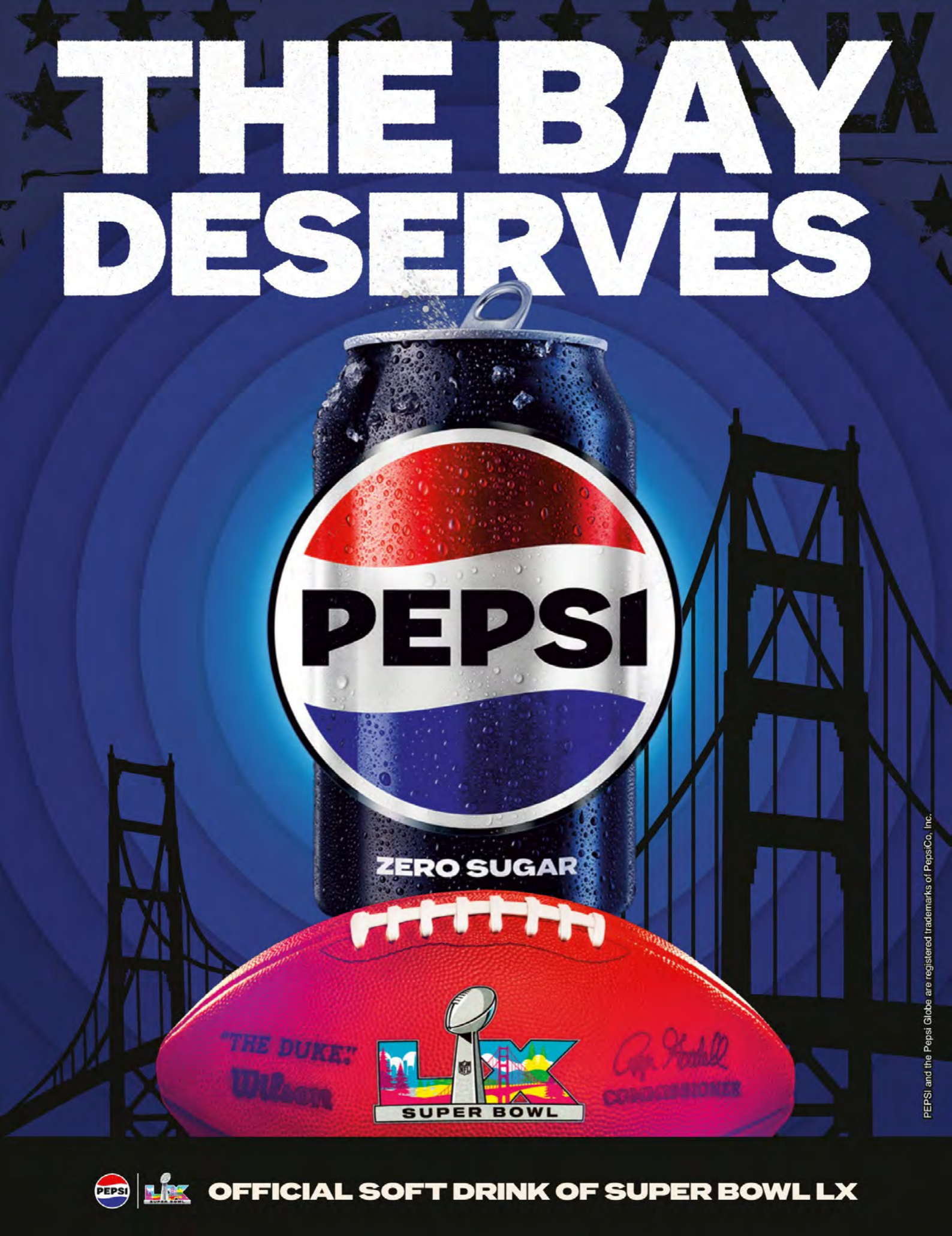
Five times during his career, Gostkowski led the NFL in scoring, including four consecutive seasons from 2012-15. Maybe most impressive, from 2007-15 the Mississippi native never missed an extra-point attempt. He was perfect on all 459 of his kicks. Three times during that stretch, Gostkowski also led the NFL in field goals made. His records of 479 consecutive regular-season PATs and 523 consecutive extra-points made (including postseason) still stand as all-time NFL marks.

Gostkowski, who played in six Super Bowls with the Patriots, was part of the XLIX, LI, and LIII title teams. En route to that third ring, he kicked a 41-yard field goal with just over a minute left to seal the 13-3 win over the Rams. His 41 career playoff field goals are second-most all time, and he owns an impressive career 89.1 percent success rate on postseason field-goal attempts.

Only longtime teammate Tom Brady (48) and Vinatieri (32) have played in more career playoff games than Gostkowski's 29. (Jerry Rice also played in 29.) A four-time Pro Bowl selection, Gostkowski became eligible for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2026. ***— Mark Preston***

Mark Preston is a Connecticut-based sportswriter who has contributed to the Official Super Bowl Program *for the past 19 years.*

GREG M. COOPER/AP IMAGES (Campbell); DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP IMAGES (Gostowski)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production has grown steadily; he notched six touchdowns over the final four weeks of the season. Maye also must be accounted for in the ground game, as he took off running more than 100 times for 450 yards and four scores.

Playing behind a vastly improved offensive line featuring rookies Will Campbell and Jared Wilson on the left side, Maye has been given the time and space to set about his passing game. Overall, there are four new starters on the offensive line, and the fact they so quickly meshed together is a tribute to positional coach (and former Bills and Jaguars head coach) Doug Marrone, as well as assistants Jason Houghtaling and Robert Kugler. Right tackle Morgan Moses is a 12-year veteran who does not allow sacks and was signed along with seventh-year center Garrett Bradbury to provide leadership. Adding stability is right guard Mike Onwenu, the longest-termed offensive player on the roster.

DEFENSE

The Patriots' top-10 defense allowed the fourth-fewest points (18.8 per game) in the NFL and can stifle anything an opposing offense throws at them. They might not be the most proficient at sacking quarterbacks, but there are a slew of elite game-changers — particularly on the line and at corner.

Vrabel brought in Terrell Williams to coordinate the defense, but the veteran defensive coach stepped aside for health reasons after a cancer diagnosis. Inside linebackers coach Zak Kuhr had never called a defense previously but took on the role to great effect.

Milton Williams is a game-wrecker who brings the experience of a Super Bowl LIX victory with the Eagles to the defensive front, where he is paired with fellow tackle Christian Barmore. The ferocious interior duo is disruptive, bringing pressure up the middle and stuffing the run effectively.

"You key in on one of us, and leave the other one-on-one, we like our chances," says Williams.

Veteran nose tackle Khyiris Tonga anchors the line as an immovable presence who can absorb double teams. His sack in the Divisional round was key to wrapping up the win over the Texans.

Former Jaguars first-round pick K'Lavon Chaisson has realized his potential with a

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
ALL-TIME PLAYOFF RESULTS
40 WINS/22 LOSSES
6 SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEAR	ROUND	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
1963	AFL Divisional	at Bills	26-8	W
	AFL Championship	at San Diego Chargers	10-51	L
1976	AFC Divisional	at Oakland Raiders	21-24	L
1978	AFC Divisional	vs. Houston Oilers	14-31	L
1982	AFC Wild Card	at Dolphins	13-28	L
1985	AFC Wild Card	at Jets	26-14	W
	AFC Divisional	at Los Angeles Raiders	27-20	W
	AFC Championship	at Dolphins	31-14	W
	Super Bowl XX	**Bears**	**10-46**	L
1986	AFC Divisional	at Broncos	17-22	L
1994	AFC Wild Card	at Browns	13-20	L
1996	AFC Divisional	vs. Steelers	28-3	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Jaguars	20-6	W
	Super Bowl XXXI	**Packers**	**21-35**	L
1997	AFC Wild Card	vs. Dolphins	17-3	W
	AFC Divisional	at Steelers	6-7	L
1998	AFC Wild Card	at Jaguars	10-25	L
2001	AFC Divisional	vs. Oakland Raiders	16-13 (OT)	W
	AFC Championship	at Steelers	24-17	W
	Super Bowl XXXVI	**St. Louis Rams**	**20-17**	W
2003	AFC Divisional	vs. Titans	17-14	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Colts	24-14	W
	Super Bowl XXXVIII	**Panthers**	**32-29**	W
2004	AFC Divisional	vs. Colts	20-3	W
	AFC Championship	at Steelers	41-27	W
	Super Bowl XXXIX	**Eagles**	**24-21**	W
2005	AFC Wild Card	vs. Jaguars	28-3	W
	AFC Divisional	at Broncos	13-27	L
2006	AFC Wild Card	vs. Jets	37-16	W
	AFC Divisional	at San Diego Chargers	24-21	W
	AFC Championship	at Colts	34-38	L
2007	AFC Divisional	vs. Jaguars	31-20	W
	AFC Championship	vs. San Diego Chargers	21-12	W
	Super Bowl XLII	**Giants**	**14-17**	L
2009	AFC Wild Card	vs. Ravens	14-33	L
2010	AFC Divisional	vs. Jets	21-28	L
2011	AFC Divisional	vs. Broncos	45-10	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Ravens	23-20	W
	Super Bowl XLVI	**Giants**	**17-21**	L
2012	AFC Divisional	vs. Texans	41-28	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Ravens	13-28	L
2013	AFC Divisional	vs. Colts	43-22	W
	AFC Championship	at Broncos	16-26	L
2014	AFC Divisional	vs. Ravens	35-31	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Colts	45-7	W
	Super Bowl XLIX	**Seahawks**	**28-24**	W
2015	AFC Divisional	vs. Chiefs	27-20	W
	AFC Championship	at Broncos	18-20	L
2016	AFC Divisional	vs. Texans	34-16	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Steelers	36-17	W
	Super Bowl LI	**Falcons**	**34-28 (OT)**	W
2017	AFC Divisional	vs. Titans	35-14	W
	AFC Championship	vs. Jaguars	24-20	W
	Super Bowl LII	**Eagles**	**33-41**	L
2018	AFC Divisional	vs. Chargers	41-28	W
	AFC Championship	at Chiefs	37-31 (OT)	W
	Super Bowl LIII	**Rams**	**13-3**	W
2019	AFC Wild Card	vs. Titans	13-20	L
2021	AFC Wild Card	at Bills	17-47	L
2025	AFC Wild Card	vs. Chargers	16-3	W
	AFC Divisional	vs. Texans	28-16	W
	AFC Championship	at Broncos	10-7	W

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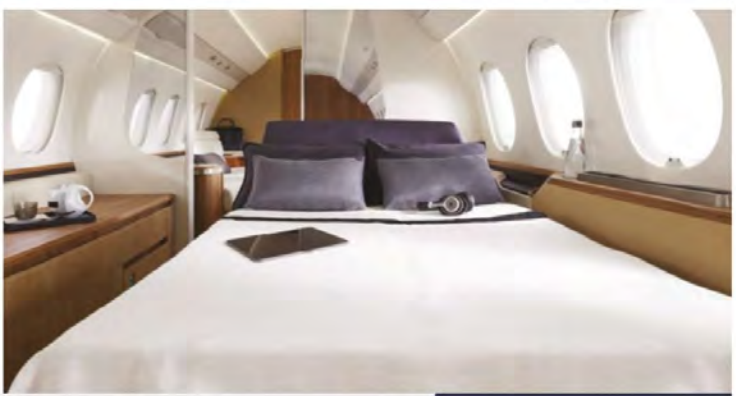

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career-high 7.5 sacks. He brings pressure with uncanny quickness from the outside, opposite fellow linebacker Harold Landry III, whose 8.5 sacks led the team. Anfernee Jennings sets the edge and has seen his role increase deeper into the season.

The return of leading tackler Robert Spillane (97), who had played virtually every down before missing the final four games of the regular season, solidifies a front seven rounded out by the aggressive Christian Elliss, Jack Gibbens, and Jahlani Tavai.

The lockdown coverage of Christian Gonzalez is a main reason the Patriots' defense is so effective against the pass; the prolific third-year corner earned overdue Pro Bowl honors for the first time. He willingly matched up against the NFL's elite receivers and allowed only one TD this year while breaking up 10 passes.

Carlton Davis III was a key free-agent addition from the Lions who starts opposite Gonzalez, forming a duo that has effectively shut down the air attack. Davis snagged two interceptions in the Divisional-round win over the Texans. Team captain Marcus Jones is lauded for his route recognition and ability to sneak into the backfield on well-timed blitzes.

Jaylinn Hawkins and rookie Craig Woodson have excelled as starting safeties. Hawkins patrols the secondary with a sense of anticipation that rewarded him with four interceptions during a breakout season. Woodson is the perfect complement as the team's third-leading tackler.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This explosive group has impacted games all season, with two punt-return touchdowns as well as a kickoff-return TD. Second Team All-Pro Marcus Jones ran back punts 94 and 87 yards for scores while finishing second in the NFL in punt return average (17.3 yards).

Venezuelan-born kicker Andy Borregales grew up idolizing Patriots legend Adam Vinatieri, who twice nailed last-second kicks to win Super Bowls. Borregales' strong leg provides a long-distance option that allowed him to make all four field goals he attempted from beyond 50 yards during the regular season. Punter and holder Bryce Baringer (40.6 net average) is the veteran of an otherwise young group that includes rookie long snapper Julian Ashby.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

PATRIOTS 10 << FINAL BRONCOS 7

ONLY ONE WIN STANDS BETWEEN the New England Patriots and a record seventh Super Bowl championship after they edged the Broncos in a fierce defensive battle for the AFC title. Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel is looking to make history in Santa Clara as well by becoming the first person to win a Super Bowl as a player and a coach for the same franchise.

In an otherwise even contest, New England prevailed thanks to a momentum-turning defensive play and a time-consuming drive that led to the winning points.

The Broncos scored first, set up by a 52-yard pass from Jarrett Stidham to Marvin Mims Jr. to move deep into Patriots territory. One play later, Stidham connected with Courtland Sutton on a 6-yard TD.

It stayed that way until shortly before halftime when an alert defensive play helped New England draw even. Stidham attempted to escape pressure from linebacker Christian Elliss by throwing the ball away, but the play was ruled a backward pass, with the fumble recovered by the Patriots' Elijah Ponder at the Broncos 12. Two plays later, quarterback Drake Maye darted up the middle for a 6-yard touchdown run that knotted the game at 7-7.

Winds and a blinding snow led to worsening conditions in the second half, but not before the Patriots took the lead. They opened the third quarter by methodically marching down the field, taking nearly 10 minutes off the clock. When the drive finally stalled, Andy Borregales kicked a go-ahead 23-yard field goal that would be the game's final points.

What Maye couldn't accomplish through the air, he more than made up for with his legs. On top of accounting for the Patriots' only TD, he rushed for 65 yards — with six of his runs going for first downs. The final one came after a Christian Gonzalez interception stopped a late Broncos drive and allowed the Patriots to run out the clock.

CHAMPIONSHIP

EMPOWER FIELD AT MILE HIGH

Denver, Colo. January 25, 2026

	1	2	3	4	F
#2 **Patriots**	0	7	3	0	**10**
#1 Broncos	7	0	0	0	7

1st Quarter

BRONCOS Courtland Sutton 6-yard pass from Jarrett Stidham (Wil Lutz kick), 10:19

2nd Quarter

PATRIOTS Drake Maye 6-yard run (Andy Borregales kick), 2:10

3rd Quarter

PATRIOTS Borregales 23-yard FG, 5:29

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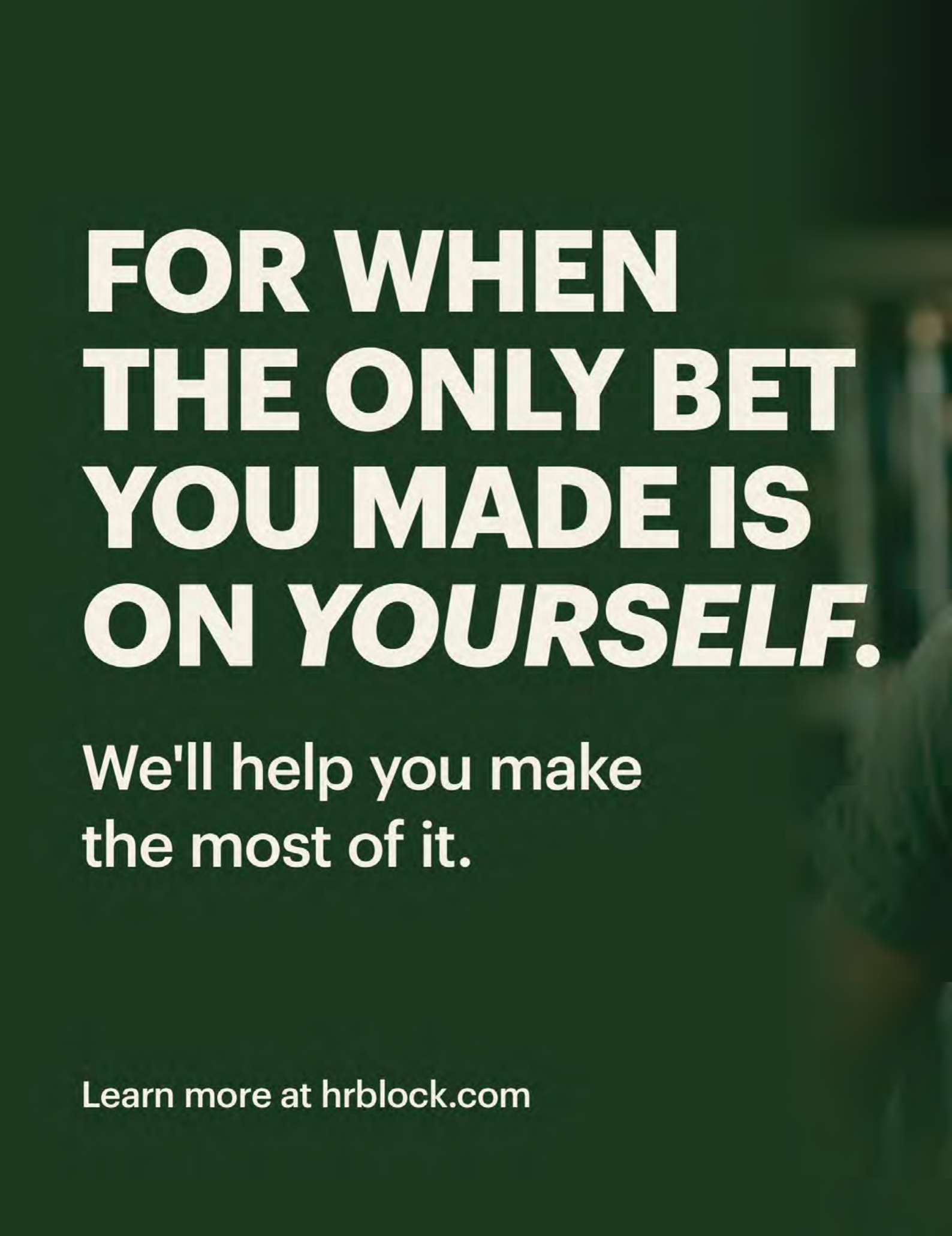
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Defense and special teams have been cornerstones of New England's return to the Super Bowl. (Clockwise from left) Between them, Marcus Jones (25) and Brenden Schooler (41) have been All-Pro special teams selections three of the last four seasons. Harold Landry III (2), in his first season with the Patriots, led the team in sacks. Robert Spillane (14) was New England's leader in combined tackles with 97.

GAME PLAN

Vrabel knows what it takes to win a Super Bowl. Three in fact. McDaniels, meanwhile, wears six diamond-studded rings on his fingers. Dangle the Lombardi Trophy in front of that pair, put one of the best young quarterbacks in the NFL at their disposal, and they will find a way to win.

The defense is on a heater, creating pressure and causing turnovers at a steady clip. When you pair that unit with Maye and the "been-there-and-seen-it-all" schemes of McDaniels, the combination seems unbeatable at the moment. It's not a group focused on putting up gaudy numbers, but on making clutch plays — and avoiding mistakes — in the biggest moments.

It seems odd for a young team to play with such discipline, but the real beauty of this Patriots squad — like those Vrabel was part of — is its adaptability to both opponent and situation. If a defense expects them to establish the run — using the jump-cut ability of Henderson and the battering ram attack of Stevenson — in order to set up the passing game, it's quite likely they'll come out throwing. Of course, if a defense is steadfast on neutralizing Diggs and the passing attack, look for the Patriots to pound the ball.

The same is true for their defense, which is not locked into a specific style. They may elect to bring constant pressure or, instead, drop back in coverage and frustrate the QB's search for an open receiver. New England has the players and scheme to succeed with either approach.

And while no one is comparing Drake Maye to Tom Brady or predicting another nearly two-decade run of championships, there is something unmistakably familiar about this Patriots team. That alone should be enough to put the league on notice … and when Super Bowl LX is over, don't be surprised if there's an addition to the team's already stuffed trophy case.

Michael Preston is a freelance writer and communications consultant originally from the UK who is based in New Orleans. He has worked at 22 Super Bowls.

TERRANCE WILLIAMS/AP IMAGES (Landry III); GREG M. COOPER/AP IMAGES (Jones/Schooler); GARY MCCULLOUGH/AP IMAGES (Spillane)

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Robert K. Kraft

CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ROBERT KRAFT, founder, chairman, and CEO of the Kraft Group, is an American entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist whose portfolio of businesses and brands range across many verticals, including paper and packaging, sports and entertainment, real estate, and venture investing. His holdings include the New England Patriots, New England Revolution, Gillette Stadium, International Forest Products, Rand-Whitney Group, Rand-Whitney Containerboard, and a portfolio of more than 100 venture and private-equity investments.

A lifelong football fan, Kraft was a New England Patriots season ticket holder for 23 years before purchasing the franchise. He became chairman and CEO of the Patriots on January 21, 1994, pledging at the time, "My objective in buying the Patriots is to help bring a championship to New England."

What followed stands as one of the most remarkable transformations in professional sports history. Under Kraft's leadership, the Patriots have captured six Lombardi Trophies, appeared in 11 Super Bowls (the most of any team), and achieved the highest winning percentage in all of major professional sports. Since 1994, the Patriots have recorded at least nine wins in 25 of 32 seasons and claimed more division titles (20) and conference championships (11) than any other NFL team.

A native of Brookline, Mass., Kraft attended public schools before enrolling at Columbia University on an academic scholarship. After graduating, he earned a fellowship to Harvard Business School, where he received his Master of Business Administration degree. His professional success has been matched by a lifelong commitment to civic leadership and philanthropy.

Kraft and his family have consistently donated time, expertise, and resources to a wide range of charities, nonprofits, and causes, resulting in lifetime giving in excess of a billion dollars. He continues to support initiatives that provide equal access and opportunities, facilitate social and economic mobility, and create social safety nets where they do not currently exist.

In 2019, Kraft was awarded the Genesis Prize, referred to as the "Jewish Nobel" by *Time* magazine. As a Genesis Prize laureate, Kraft established the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (FCAS), now known as the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate. Since its founding, Kraft has committed $150 million to support the Blue Square Alliance's mission to raise global awareness and encourage people everywhere to stand up to antisemitism and all forms of hate.

In the spring of 2023, he launched the Blue Square as the universal symbol for standing up to hate with a multimedia national campaign and via strong partnerships across industries and communities of faith. The award-winning movement has reached hundreds of millions of Americans and included television commercials aired in the last two Super Bowls. Employing a powerful combination of empathy-building storytelling and data to underscore the scale and urgency of the problem of rising hate in the U.S., the Blue Square campaign is motivating and inspiring allyship and action to stand with anyone experiencing hate.

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Daniel Kraft President — The Kraft Group International

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Michael Israel Chief Information and Technology Officer

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Deron Mayo Strength and Conditioning Coach
Brian McDonough Assistant Strength and Conditioning
Brandon Martuccio Strength and Conditioning Assistant
Dexter Taylor Strength and Conditioning Assistant

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Michael Akinbola Director of Rehabilitation
Mike Baum Associate Head Athletic Trainer
Ted Harper Head Sports Dietitian

EQUIPMENT
Preston Rogers Head Equipment Manager

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Teddy Cioper
Jared Rita Co-Directors of Video

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Mike Vrabel

HEAD COACH

Mike Vrabel was named the 16th head coach in Patriots history on January 13, 2025, bringing championship pedigree and proven leadership back to New England. A three-time Super Bowl champion as a player with the team, Vrabel was inducted into the Patriots Hall of Fame in 2023.

In his first season at the helm, he has engineered a dramatic turnaround, guiding a team that finished 4-13 in 2024 back to the Super Bowl for the franchise's 12th time, the most in NFL history.

Vrabel's football career has been shaped by some of the game's most successful coaches. After entering the NFL as a player in 1997, he played for Bill Cowher and Bill Belichick, and coached under Urban Meyer and Bill O'Brien. Those influences helped mold the disciplined, accountable approach that defines his leadership as a head coach.

Vrabel brings 14 years of coaching experience, including 11 seasons in the NFL and three at Ohio State. He was hired as head coach of the Tennessee Titans in 2018 and led the club to two AFC South titles, three playoff appearances, and four winning seasons in his six-year tenure. In 2019, the Titans advanced to the AFC Championship Game, and in 2021, he was named Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year after guiding Tennessee to a 12-5 mark and the top seed in the AFC.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Vrabel was born August 14, 1975. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two sons, Tyler and Carter. Along with former Ohio State teammates Luke Fickell and Ryan Miller, Vrabel co-founded the 2nd & 7 Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting reading and positive role models for children in need.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Josh McDaniels
Offensive Coordinator

Jeremy Springer
Special Teams Coordinator

Terrell Williams
Defensive Coordinator

Scott Booker
Safeties

Thomas Brown
Tight Ends/Passing Game Coordinator

Vinny DePalma
Defensive Assistant

Tony Dews
Running Backs

Todd Downing
Wide Receivers

Ashton Grant
Quarterbacks

Justin Hamilton
Cornerbacks

Jason Houghtaling
Assistant Offensive Line

Chuckie Keeton
Offensive Assistant

Robert Kugler
Assistant Offensive Line

Zak Kuhr
Inside Linebackers

Riley Larkin
Offensive Assistant

Doug Marrone
Offensive Line

Ben McAdoo
Senior Defensive Assistant

Clinton McMillan
Defensive Line

Milton Patterson
Defensive Assistant

Tom Quinn
Assistant Special Teams

Kevin Richardson
Defensive Assistant

Mike Smith
Outside Linebackers

John Streicher
Vice President of Football Operations and Strategy

Ekene Olekanma
Director of Coaching Analytics

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	BIRTH DATE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE	HOW ACQUIRED
0	Christian Gonzalez	CB	6-1	205	6/28/02	3	Oregon	D1 '23
2	Harold Landry III	LB	6-2	252	6/5/96	8	Boston College	FA '25
3	DeMario Douglas	WR	5-8	192	12/8/00	3	Liberty	D6c '23
7	Carlton Davis III	CB	6-1	206	12/31/96	8	Auburn	UFA (DET) '25
8	Stefon Diggs	WR	6-0	191	11/29/93	11	Maryland	UFA (HOU) '25
9	Kayshon Boutte	WR	5-11	197	5/7/02	3	Louisiana State	D6a '23
10	Drake Maye	QB	6-4	225	8/30/02	2	North Carolina	D1 '24
11	Joshua Dobbs	QB	6-3	220	1/26/95	9	Tennessee	UFA (SF) '25
14	Robert Spillane	LB	6-1	229	12/14/95	7	Western Michigan	UFA (LV) '25
15	Marte Mapu	LB	6-3	230	11/8/99	3	Sacramento State	D3 '23
16	Tommy DeVito	QB	6-2	210	8/7/98	3	Illinois	W (NYG) '25
17	Bryce Baringer	P	6-2	215	4/26/99	3	Michigan State	D6b '23
18	Kyle Williams	WR	5-11	190	11/13/02	R	Washington State	D3a '25
19	Kobee Minor	DB	5-11	188	7/8/02	R	Memphis	D7c '25
21	Jaylinn Hawkins	S	6-1	208	8/25/97	6	California	UFA (LAC) '24
22	Charles Woods	CB	5-11	185	6/17/00	2	Southern Methodist	W (LAR) '25
24	Dell Pettus	S	5-11	200	6/2/01	2	Troy	FA '24
25	Marcus Jones	CB	5-8	188	10/22/98	4	Houston	D3 '22
28	Alex Austin	CB	6-1	191	5/22/01	3	Oregon State	FA '23
31	Craig Woodson	S	6-0	200	2/20/01	R	California	D4a '25
32	TreVeyon Henderson	RB	5-10	202	10/22/02	R	Ohio State	D2 '25
33	Anfernee Jennings	LB	6-2	255	5/1/97	6	Alabama	D3a '20
36	Andy Borregales	K	5-11	202	1/2/03	R	Miami (FL)	D6 '25
37	Jack Westover	FB	6-2	245	6/9/99	1	Washington	FA '24
38	Rhamondre Stevenson	RB	6-0	227	2/23/98	5	Oklahoma	D4 '21
41	Brenden Schooler	S	6-2	210	5/30/97	4	Texas	FA '22
43	Bradyn Swinson	LB	6-4	255	7/4/02	R	Louisiana State	D5 '25
44	K'Lavon Chaisson	LB	6-3	255	7/25/99	6	Louisiana State	UFA (LV) '25
47	Julian Ashby	LS	6-1	231	7/8/02	R	Vanderbilt	D7b '25
48	Jahlani Tavai	LB	6-2	255	9/28/96	7	Hawaii	FA '21
49	Chad Muma	LB	6-3	239	8/18/99	4	Wyoming	FA '25
51	Jack Gibbens	LB	6-3	242	11/24/98	4	Minnesota	FA '25
52	Marcus Bryant	T	6-7	320	6/22/02	R	Missouri	D7a '25
53	Christian Elliss	LB	6-2	231	1/2/99	4	Idaho	W (PHI) '23
55	Eric Gregory	DT	6-3	319	9/13/00	R	Arkansas	W (CIN) '25
58	Jared Wilson	OL	6-3	310	6/5/03	R	Georgia	D3b '25
59	Vederian Lowe	T	6-5	315	4/17/99	4	Illinois	T (MIN) '23
65	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	300	6/20/95	7	North Carolina State	FA '25
66	Will Campbell	T	6-6	319	1/6/04	R	Louisiana State	D1 '25
70	Caedan Wallace	OL	6-5	314	4/18/00	2	Penn State	D3 '24
71	Mike Onwenu	OL	6-3	350	12/10/97	6	Michigan	D6a '20
74	Thayer Munford Jr.	T	6-6	331	9/18/99	4	Ohio State	FA '25
76	Morgan Moses	T	6-6	320	3/3/91	12	Virginia	UFA (NYJ) '25
77	Ben Brown	C	6-5	313	5/19/98	4	Mississippi	FA '24
81	Austin Hooper	TE	6-4	254	10/29/94	10	Stanford	UFA (LV) '24
82	CJ Dippre	TE	6-5	256	4/29/02	R	Alabama	FA '25
85	Hunter Henry	TE	6-5	249	12/7/94	10	Arkansas	UFA (LAC) '21
86	Efton Chism III	WR	5-10	198	10/26/01	R	Eastern Washington	FA '25
90	Christian Barmore	DL	6-5	315	7/28/99	5	Alabama	D2 '21
91	Elijah Ponder	LB	6-3	261	8/29/02	R	Cal Poly	FA '25
94	Cory Durden	DT	6-4	305	1/26/99	3	North Carolina State	FA '25
95	Khyiris Tonga	DL	6-2	335	7/7/96	5	Brigham Young	UFA (ARI) '25
97	Milton Williams	DT	6-3	290	4/6/99	5	Louisiana Tech	UFA (PHI) '25

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC CHAMPIONS

Julian Ashby (47)
LONG SNAPPER

Alex Austin (28)
CORNERBACK

Bryce Baringer (17)
PUNTER

Christian Barmore (90)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Andy Borregales (36)
KICKER

Kayshon Boutte (9)
WIDE RECEIVER

Garrett Bradbury (65)
CENTER

Ben Brown (77)
CENTER

Marcus Bryant (52)
TACKLE

Will Campbell (66)
TACKLE

K'Lavon Chaisson (44)
LINEBACKER

Efton Chism III (86)
WIDE RECEIVER

Carlton Davis III (7)
CORNERBACK

Tommy DeVito (16)
QUARTERBACK

Stefon Diggs (8)
WIDE RECEIVER

CJ Dippre (82)
TIGHT END

Joshua Dobbs (11)
QUARTERBACK

DeMario Douglas (3)
WIDE RECEIVER

Cory Durden (94)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Christian Elliss (53)
LINEBACKER

Jack Gibbens (51)
LINEBACKER

Christian Gonzalez (0)
CORNERBACK

Eric Gregory (55)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Jaylinn Hawkins (21)
SAFETY

TreVeyon Henderson (32)
RUNNING BACK

Hunter Henry (85)
TIGHT END

Austin Hooper (81)
TIGHT END

Anfernee Jennings (33)
LINEBACKER

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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC CHAMPIONS

Marcus Jones (25)
CORNERBACK

Harold Landry III (2)
LINEBACKER

Vederian Lowe (59)
TACKLE

Marte Mapu (15)
LINEBACKER

Drake Maye (10)
QUARTERBACK

Kobee Minor (19)
DEFENSIVE BACK

Morgan Moses (76)
TACKLE

Chad Muma (49)
LINEBACKER

Thayer Munford Jr. (74)
TACKLE

Mike Onwenu (71)
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Dell Pettus (24)
SAFETY

Elijah Ponder (91)
LINEBACKER

Brenden Schooler (41)
SAFETY

Robert Spillane (14)
LINEBACKER

Rhamondre Stevenson (38)
RUNNING BACK

Bradyn Swinson (43)
LINEBACKER

Jahlani Tavai (48)
LINEBACKER

Khyiris Tonga (95)
DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

Caedan Wallace (70)
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Jack Westover (37)
FULLBACK

Kyle Williams (18)
WIDE RECEIVER

Milton Williams (97)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Jared Wilson (58)
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Charles Woods (22)
CORNERBACK

Craig Woodson (31)
SAFETY

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STATISTICAL LEADERS*/ DEPTH CHARTS

OFFENSE

	PASSING					
	COMP-ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	RTNG
Drake Maye	354-492	72.0	4394	31	8	113.5

	RUSHING				
	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
TreVeyon Henderson	180	911	5.1	69	9
Rhamondre Stevenson	130	603	4.6	56	7
Drake Maye	103	450	4.4	28	4
Antonio Gibson	25	106	4.2	21	1

	RECEIVING				
	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Stefon Diggs	85	1013	11.9	34	4
Hunter Henry	60	768	12.8	36	7
Mack Hollins	46	550	12.0	54	2
TreVeyon Henderson	35	221	6.3	19	1
Kayshon Boutte	33	551	16.7	39	6
Rhamondre Stevenson	32	345	10.8	55	2
DeMario Douglas	31	447	14.4	58	3
Austin Hooper	21	263	12.5	31	2

DEPTH CHART		
WR	8	Stefon Diggs
	18	Kyle Williams
LT	66	Will Campbell
	59	Vederian Lowe
	74	Thayer Munford Jr.
LG	58	Jared Wilson
	77	Ben Brown
C	65	Garrett Bradbury
	77	Ben Brown
RG	71	Mike Onwenu
	70	Caedan Wallace
RT	76	Morgan Moses
	52	Marcus Bryant
TE	85	Hunter Henry
	81	Austin Hooper
	82	CJ Dippre
WR	3	DeMario Douglas
	18	Kyle Williams
WR	9	Kayshon Boutte
	86	Efton Chism III
QB	10	Drake Maye
	11	Joshua Dobbs
	16	Tommy DeVito
RB	38	Rhamondre Stevenson
	32	TreVeyon Henderson
FB	37	Jack Westover

DEFENSE

	TACKLES		
	SOLO	ASSISTS	TOTAL
Robert Spillane	48	49	97
Christian Elliss	32	44	76
Craig Woodson	40	35	75
Jack Gibbens	39	32	71
Jaylinn Hawkins	44	26	70
Christian Gonzalez	54	15	69
Carlton Davis III	39	30	69
Marcus Jones	47	18	65
Harold Landry III	27	22	49
Jahlani Tavai	18	16	34

	INTERCEPTIONS				
	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jaylinn Hawkins	4	1	0.3	1	0
Marcus Jones	3	65	21.7	33	1
Robert Spillane	2	70	35.0	37	0
Marte Mapu	1	20	20.0	20	0

	SACKS	
	NO	YDS
Harold Landry III	8.5	50.0
K'Lavon Chaisson	7.5	43.0
Elijah Ponder	4.0	16.0
Milton Williams	3.5	24.0
Christian Barmore	2.0	16.0
Anfernee Jennings	2.0	18.0
Marcus Jones	2.0	9.0

	PASSES DEFENSED	FORCED FUMBLES/ RECOVERIES
Marcus Jones	11	0/1
Carlton Davis III	10	0/0
Christian Gonzalez	10	0/0
Jaylinn Hawkins	6	1/1

DEPTH CHART		
OLB	44	K'Lavon Chaisson
	91	Elijah Ponder
DT	90	Christian Barmore
	94	Cory Durden
NT	95	Khyiris Tonga
	55	Eric Gregory
DT	97	Milton Williams
	94	Cory Durden
OLB	2	Harold Landry III
	33	Anfernee Jennings
	43	Bradyn Swinson
LB	14	Robert Spillane
	15	Marte Mapu
	48	Jahlani Tavai
LB	53	Christian Elliss
	51	Jack Gibbens
	49	Chad Muma
CB	7	Carlton Davis III
	22	Charles Woods
	28	Alex Austin
CB	0	Christian Gonzalez
	25	Marcus Jones
	19	Kobee Minor
S	21	Jaylinn Hawkins
	24	Dell Pettus
	41	Brenden Schooler
S	31	Craig Woodson
	24	Dell Pettus

SPECIAL TEAMS

	FIELD GOALS						PATs	PTS
Andy Borregales	27/32	2/2	6/6	8/9	7/11	4/4	53/55	134
	TOTAL	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		

	KICK RETURNS				
	RET	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Efton Chism III	16	383	23.9	31	0
Antonio Gibson	12	342	28.5	90	1
Kyle Williams	11	290	26.4	36	0

	PUNT RETURNS				
	RET	FC	AVG	LONG	TD
Marcus Jones	21	18	17.3	94	2

	PUNTING					
	NO	AVG	NET	TB	IN/20	LONG
Bryce Baringer	51	47.4	40.6	4	21	73

DEPTH CHART		
K	36	Andy Borregales
H	17	Bryce Baringer
P	17	Bryce Baringer
LS	47	Julian Ashby
PR	25	Marcus Jones
	86	Efton Chism III
KR	18	Kyle Williams
	86	Efton Chism III

*REGULAR SEASON

SEAHAWKS SHOW THEIR WINNING SIDE

BY CRAIG ELLENPORT

Seattle's Sam Darnold is the only quarterback to pass for at least 4,000 yards and lead his team to the playoffs in each of the last two seasons, which includes his time with Minnesota in 2024.

RUSTY JONES/AP IMAGES

SCOUTING REPORT

THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS won their first Super Bowl thanks to a dominant defense known as the "Legion of Boom." This year's model prefers a different nickname, and the "Dark Side" might just bring another Vince Lombardi Trophy to the Emerald City.

In a loaded NFC West, the Seahawks ended the regular season with seven straight wins to capture the division and No. 1 seed in the conference. The defense was utterly dominant, holding five of its last six opponents under 17 points — a flourishing finish for a unit that gave up the fewest points per game (17.2) and yards allowed per rush (3.7) in the NFL.

When the Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII, the Legion of Boom defense shut down Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos in a 43-8 rout. This defense is just as dangerous.

Leonard Williams (left), one of three Seattle defensive players named to the Pro Bowl, tied for the team lead with seven sacks. Seahawks wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba (above) led the league with 1,793 receiving yards, the eighth-best single-season total in NFL history.

BEN VANHOUTEN/AP IMAGES (Williams); LINDSEY WASSON/AP IMAGES (Smith-Njigba)

The Dark Side defense has been so good, it's overshadowed the other big narrative for these Seahawks: the redemption of Sam Darnold. The third overall pick by the New York Jets in the 2018 NFL Draft, whose future seemed in doubt after lasting just three seasons in Gotham, has completely rewritten his legacy. Darnold led the Minnesota Vikings to 14 wins last season; Seattle signed him as a free agent in the offseason, and now he is the first quarterback in NFL history to win 14 games in back-to-back seasons with two different teams. The only other quarterback with back-to-back 14-win seasons, even with the same team? Tom Brady. That's pretty good company.

Seattle is Darnold's fourth team in the last four seasons. Safe to say he will not be leaving the Pacific Northwest next year.

As the Seahawks celebrate their 50th season as an NFL franchise, head coach Mike Macdonald leads the way for his second year. The former Ravens defensive coordinator, who turned Baltimore's defense into the NFL's best, made an

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (16-3) 2025 RESULTS

Sep. 7	vs. 49ERS	13-17	L
Sep. 14	at STEELERS	31-17	W
Sep. 21	vs. SAINTS	44-13	W
Sep. 25	at CARDINALS	23-20	W
Oct. 5	vs. BUCCANEERS	35-38	L
Oct. 12	at JAGUARS	20-12	W
Oct. 20	vs. TEXANS	27-19	W
Nov. 2	at COMMANDERS	38-14	W
Nov. 9	vs. CARDINALS	44-22	W
Nov. 16	at RAMS	19-21	L
Nov. 23	at TITANS	30-24	W
Nov. 30	vs. VIKINGS	26-0	W
Dec. 7	at FALCONS	37-9	W
Dec. 14	vs. COLTS	18-16	W
Dec. 18	vs. RAMS	38-37 (OT)	W
Dec. 28	at PANTHERS	27-10	W
Jan. 3	at 49ERS	13-3	W

NFC PLAYOFFS

Jan. 17	vs. 49ERS	41-6	W
Jan. 25	vs. RAMS	31-27	W

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immediate impact in Seattle. Now, he has a dominant team on both sides of the ball ready to capture a championship.

OFFENSE

If the defense is the Dark Side, Seattle's offense is most certainly a bright spot. They averaged 28.4 points per game, third-best in the NFL, and scored 35 or more points six times, tied for the most in the league.

Macdonald has made a point of letting Darnold be aggressive in the passing game, as opposed to being too conservative and focusing on not making mistakes.

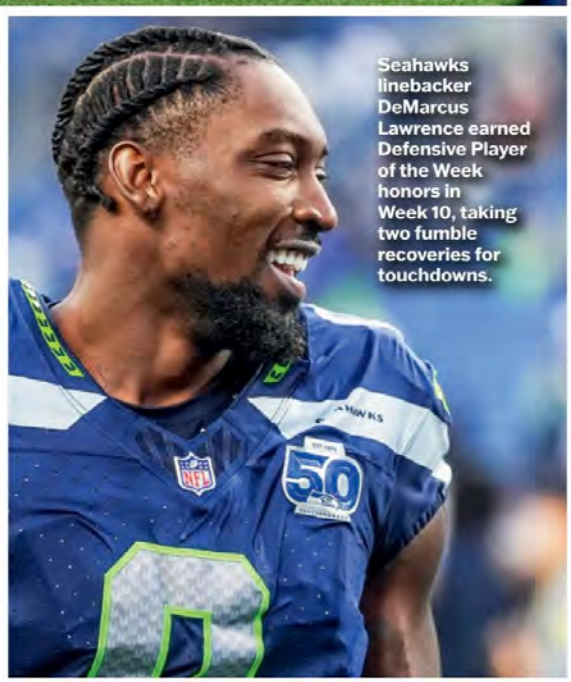
"That's when Sam is at his best," Macdonald says. "I think any quarterback, for that matter, but especially Sam. He's played great football when he's played like that, so that's why we coach him that way."

Darnold completed 67.7 percent of his passes during the regular season for 4,048 yards, 25 touchdowns, and 14 interceptions. His 8.5 yards per attempt ranked second in the league, a stat that tells you he is willing to sling the ball downfield.

And why not? His No. 1 target, Jaxon Smith-Njigba, has emerged as one of the league's most dangerous weapons. In his third season, Smith-Njigba took the league by storm. As late as Week 11, he was on pace to become the NFL's first-ever 2,000-yard receiver. While he fell short of that milestone, he still led the league with 1,793 yards — the eighth-best season total in NFL history — while catching 119 passes and 10 TDs.

"He's so good at route-running, and his hands are phenomenal as well,"

On the league's third-highest scoring team, Seattle kicker Jason Myers was the NFL leader with 171 points during the 2025 season.



Seahawks linebacker DeMarcus Lawrence earned Defensive Player of the Week honors in Week 10, taking two fumble recoveries for touchdowns.

Kenneth Walker III was Seattle's leading rusher in 2025 with 1,027 yards, and his 116 yards vs. the 49ers in the Divisional playoffs marked his best single-game total in three years.

says future Hall of Fame tight end Rob Gronkowski. "All Sam Darnold has to do is put the ball in his proximity and JSN will come down with [it]."

Smith-Njigba recorded more than twice as many receptions as any other player on the roster, and though the Seahawks' wide receiver corps may not be the deepest, it does include some key contributors. Cooper Kupp, the Super Bowl LVI MVP with the Rams four years ago, had 47 receptions for 593 yards and two touchdowns. He reminded people what he can do by catching five passes for 60 yards in Seattle's playoff win over the 49ers.

Rashid Shaheed had only 15 receptions in the nine games he played after Seattle acquired him from the Saints at the trade deadline, but he maintains an important role in the offense. One of the fastest players in the league, he presents a big-play threat that defenses must account for. And when Shaheed goes deep, it frees up his teammates underneath.

The players who benefit most from those short and intermediate passes are tight end AJ Barner, who finished second on the team with 52 receptions and six touchdowns, and running back Kenneth Walker III, who caught 31 passes.

Walker is a tough inside runner who also can break long gains outside. The Seahawks' top ground-gainer during the regular season with 1,027 rushing yards, he's being leaned on even more heavily now that backfield partner Zach Charbonnet (730 rushing yards, team-best 12 rushing TDs) is sidelined with a knee injury.

The run game has played a big part in Seattle's offensive explosion in the second half of the season. Through the first nine games, the Seahawks averaged 3.68 yards per carry. In Weeks 10-18, that number climbed to 4.5. A lot of that was due to Walker and Charbonnet being tough to tackle. Through the first nine games, Seattle rushers gained 468 yards after contact. In the eight games that followed: 750.

The offensive line has improved steadily since the season began, with rookie left guard Grey Zabel, Seattle's first-round draft pick, emerging as one of the best in the game. Zabel, along with right guard Anthony Bradford and right tackle Abraham Lucas, started all 17 games. Seattle allowed 27 sacks during the regular season, tied for fifth-fewest in the league.

LOUD AND PROUD

One of the ultimate accolades for an NFL player is to have his number retired. To have your digits forever displayed within the stadium in which you competed is an undeniable sign of your impact and lasting legacy. Four former Seahawks — Kenny Easley, Walter Jones, Steve Largent, and Cortez Kennedy — all know that singular honor. But in 1984, Seattle became the first professional sports team to retire a number for its fans, recognizing these supporters' (the "12s") contributions to the success of the team by retiring the number 12.

That's altogether fitting, because as any NFL player will attest, there are few louder or more intimidating environments to play in than Seattle's Lumen Field. Indeed, dating back to their days competing in the old Kingdome, the Seahawks have enjoyed an unparalleled home-field advantage. Seattle's boisterous fan base unfailingly produces a deafening cacophony that only amplifies the angst of opponents hoping to ground the high-flying Seahawks. That wall of noise helped the Seahawks post a 6-2 home record this season.

"The 12s" have twice set the *Guinness Book of World Records* mark for loudest crowd noise during a game, and in 2011, a 67-yard TD run by Marshawn Lynch (later dubbed "Beast Quake") in an NFC Wild Card contest produced a thunderous reaction from the fan base that registered on area seismographs as a low-magnitude earthquake.

Since the 2023 season, the Seahawks' pregame ceremonies have included the raising of the "12 Flag" by former players, military members, and local celebrities in honor of Seattle's devoted (and deafening) supporters. No Seahawks player ever will wear the number 12 — because no Seahawks player will ever forget the inimitable impact of the "12s."

— Mark Preston

DEFENSE

"Loose and focused" is among the defensive mantras that Macdonald brought to this team, and Seattle's unit has made the philosophy a way of life.

"One of the things that I think we're most proud of on our defensive tape is the waves of Seahawks that get to the ball," Macdonald says. "I feel like our team is really committed to playing in that type of style, on that type of speed, and that type of effort. When you do that, you might miss a tackle here or there, but it's going to get cleaned up, and you're going to get multiple people at the point of attack where you can limit some of those extra hidden yardages."

Opposite page: BEN VANHOUTEN/AP IMAGES (Myers); LINDSEY WASSON/AP IMAGES (Lawrence); JED JACOBSOHN/AP IMAGES (Walker III)
This page: TED S. WARREN/AP IMAGES

A stout three-man front, solid linebackers, and an elite secondary have kept opponents' big plays to a minimum.

"They're extremely talented at all three levels," says San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan, who had to face Seattle three times this season — scoring a total of 26 points in those games. "They have a very good scheme that's very balanced, and they can hit you in any way. The personnel not only is talented for any scheme, but is perfectly talented for their scheme. They've been playing with close to the same group for two years. When you have a talented group with a good scheme that's been playing together for two years, they get pretty good."

The defensive line — with Pro Bowlers Leonard Williams and DeMarcus Lawrence and third-year nose tackle Byron Murphy II — is an athletic group that is strong against the run and can get to the quarterback as well. This trio combined for 20 sacks. Lawrence led the team with 11 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, and an NFL-best three fumble recoveries — two in the same game that he returned for touchdowns.

Middle linebacker Ernest Jones IV has quietly been one of the most productive defensive players in the league. The team's leading tackler (126), Jones was the only player in the league this season to record 100 or more tackles and five interceptions.

"He has a great feel for the pace of the play and the runs, so he's never really out of whack," Macdonald says of Jones. "He can stay square. He's got so much power [that] when he does make contact, ball carriers go backward."

The strongest group on defense might be the secondary, which features one of the league's best shutdown cornerbacks in Devon Witherspoon and rookie safety Nick Emmanwori, who has become a versatile defender the Seahawks like to move all around the field.

Macdonald calls Witherspoon his favorite player.

"He's an incredible competitor, and that comes out with the standard of what he expects from himself and the rest of the team," Macdonald says. "He's a big, great, fun-loving personality, but at the end of the day, he expects us to play great football, and his actions back that up."

Emmanwori, a second-round pick out of South Carolina, has the speed to cover

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
ALL-TIME PLAYOFF RESULTS
19 WINS/19 LOSSES
1 SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Seahawks' first Super Bowl title came 12 years ago in Super Bowl XLVIII, a victory celebrated by (left to right) late owner Paul Allen, former head coach Pete Carroll, and general manager John Schneider. It marked Seattle's first major sports championship since the NBA's SuperSonics in 1979.

YEAR	ROUND	OPPONENT	SCORE	W/L
1983	AFC Wild Card	vs. Broncos	31-7	**W**
	AFC Divisional	at Dolphins	27-20	**W**
	AFC Championship	at Los Angeles Raiders	14-30	**L**
1984	AFC Wild Card	vs. Los Angeles Raiders	13-7	**W**
	AFC Divisional	at Dolphins	10-31	**L**
1987	AFC Wild Card	at Houston Oilers	20-23 (OT)	**L**
1988	AFC Divisional	at Bengals	13-21	**L**
1999	AFC Wild Card	vs. Dolphins	17-20	**L**
2003	NFC Wild Card	at Packers	27-33 (OT)	**L**
2004	NFC Wild Card	vs. St. Louis Rams	20-27	**L**
2005	NFC Divisional	vs. Washington Redskins	20-10	**W**
	NFC Championship	vs. Panthers	34-14	**W**
	Super Bowl XL	**Steelers**	**10-21**	**L**
2006	NFC Wild Card	vs. Cowboys	21-20	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Bears	24-27 (OT)	**L**
2007	NFC Wild Card	vs. Washington Redskins	35-14	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Packers	20-42	**L**
2010	NFC Wild Card	vs. Saints	41-36	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Bears	24-35	**L**
2012	NFC Wild Card	at Washington Redskins	24-14	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Falcons	28-30	**L**
2013	NFC Divisional	vs. Saints	23-15	**W**
	NFC Championship	vs. 49ers	23-17	**W**
	Super Bowl XLVIII	**Broncos**	**43-8**	**W**
2014	NFC Divisional	vs. Panthers	31-17	**W**
	NFC Championship	vs. Packers	28-22 (OT)	**W**
	Super Bowl XLIX	**Patriots**	**24-28**	**L**
2015	NFC Wild Card	at Vikings	10-9	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Panthers	24-31	**L**
2016	NFC Wild Card	vs. Lions	26-6	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Falcons	20-36	**L**
2018	NFC Wild Card	at Cowboys	22-24	**L**
2019	NFC Wild Card	at Eagles	17-9	**W**
	NFC Divisional	at Packers	23-28	**L**
2020	NFC Wild Card	vs. Rams	20-30	**L**
2022	NFC Wild Card	at 49ers	23-41	**L**
2025	NFC Divisional	vs. 49ers	41-6	**W**
	NFC Championship	vs. Rams	31-27	**W**

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slot receivers and the strength to come up and play the run like a linebacker. His versatility was on full display in Week 14, when he became the league's first player in 10 years to record a sack, an interception, and a blocked field goal in one game.

"Really he's playing a linebacker position," Macdonald says of Emmanwori. "What our front allows us to do, and what Nick allows us to do, is get some front variety that normally you wouldn't get out of a true four-down team, and it's been pretty cool what we've been able to create."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Veteran kicker Jason Myers has benefited from Seattle's offensive success, racking up an NFL-leading and franchise-record 171 points. Overall, he made 41 of 48 field-goal attempts, including nine from 50-plus yards.

Punter Michael Dickson was fifth in the NFL with a 49.0-yard average. In his eighth season, Dickson's 48.3-yard career average is fourth-best in NFL history.

As dangerous as Shaheed is on offense, he's an even greater weapon in the return game. The Pro Bowl return specialist was the only player in the league this season with both a punt and kickoff return for a TD, and he reminded everyone of that explosiveness with a 95-yard touchdown return on the opening kickoff vs. the 49ers in the playoffs.

GAME PLAN

The key for Seattle on both sides of the ball is balance.

On offense, the Seahawks tied for the NFL lead this season with an average of 6.4 yards on first down. They need to continue that trend to keep the Patriots' defense on its heels. The improved ground game has been a big part of that — not only with positive runs but even more so with how that success has helped sell the play-action passing game. With linebackers biting on play-action, Darnold sees less traffic in the middle of the field when scanning for receivers.

And while Darnold will rely on Smith-Njigba and Kupp to keep the chains moving, don't be surprised if Seattle takes a few deep shots with Shaheed. Despite his return touchdowns, the speedster has yet to score a receiving TD since joining the team, though he did have an 87-yard score for New Orleans in Week 5.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

SEAHAWKS 31 « FINAL RAMS 27

A REMATCH OF A SUPER BOWL CLASSIC became official with the Seahawks' victory over the Rams in the NFC Championship Game. Seattle advances to Santa Clara to face the Patriots, bringing back memories of Super Bowl XLIX, when its dream of back-to-back league titles was dashed by Malcolm Butler's goal-line interception.

The win over the Rams had its share of drama, too, most notably with just under five minutes to go in the game when the Seahawks stopped Los Angeles on downs at the 6-yard line, preserving a four-point lead. Seattle's offense picked up four first downs on its next drive to essentially end the contest.

Seahawks QB Sam Darnold threw for 346 yards and three TDs, and wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba had a monster game, catching 10 passes for 153 yards.

Seattle scored first on Kenneth Walker III's 2-yard TD run. A pair of Harrison Mevis field goals put the Rams on the board, and Matthew Stafford's TD pass to Kyren Williams on the first play following the second quarter two-minute warning moved L.A. in front, 13-10.

But after the teams traded punts, the Seahawks stormed down the field, with Smith-Njigba's 42-yard catch setting up his 14-yard TD reception that gave them the halftime lead.

Seattle extended that margin early in the third quarter when Dareke Young recovered a muffed punt return at the Rams 17-yard line. One play later, Darnold connected with Jake Bobo for a touchdown that made it 24-13.

The Rams continued to challenge, but the Seahawks held on for the victory.

CHAMPIONSHIP

LUMEN FIELD
Seattle, Wash. January 25, 2026

		1	2	3	4	F
#5	Rams	3	10	14	0	27
#1	**Seahawks**	10	7	14	0	**31**

1st Quarter

SEAHAWKS Kenneth Walker III 2-yard run (Jason Myers kick), 9:57
RAMS Harrison Mevis 44-yard FG, 8:15
SEAHAWKS Myers 27-yard FG, 0:54

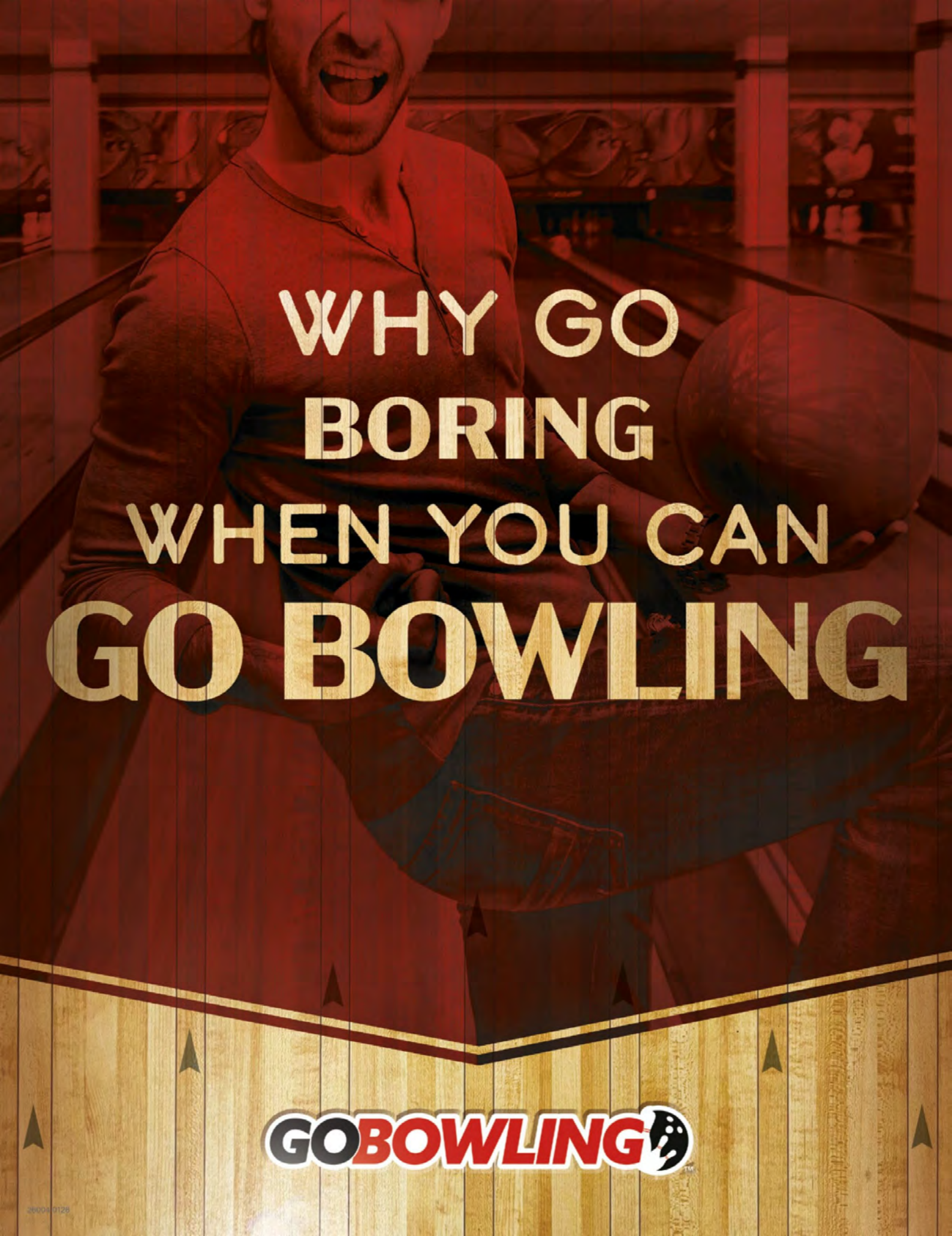
2nd Quarter

RAMS Harrison Mevis 50-yard FG, 12:11
RAMS Kyren Williams 9-yard pass from Matthew Stafford (Mevis kick), 1:55
SEAHAWKS Jaxon Smith-Njigba 14-yard pass from Sam Darnold (Myers kick), 0:20

3rd Quarter

SEAHAWKS Jake Bobo 17-yard pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 12:02
RAMS Davante Adams 2-yard pass from Stafford (Mevis kick), 9:41
SEAHAWKS Cooper Kupp 13-yard pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 4:52
RAMS Puka Nacua 34-yard pass from Stafford (Melvis kick), 2:06

BEN VANHOUTEN/AP IMAGES


WHY GO
BORING
WHEN YOU CAN
GO BOWLING
GOBOWLING

Seattle's "Dark Side" defense limited opponents to an NFL-low 17.2 ppg and was keyed by (clockwise from right) nose tackle Byron Murphy II, linebacker Ernest Jones IV, and cornerback Devon Witherspoon.

SCOUTING REPORT

As for that Dark Side defense, "loose and focused" will rule the day. The focus will be on preventing big plays and making the Patriots work for every inch they get. Seattle enters the Super Bowl having not allowed a 100-yard rusher in 28 consecutive games, and forcing the opposition to pass is what creates turnovers. The Seahawks ranked sixth in the NFL with 25 takeaways during the regular season.

The defense can really clamp down if Seattle jumps ahead, but it's not the end of the world if they fall behind. Darnold has orchestrated nine game-winning drives in the fourth quarter or overtime since the start of 2024, most in the league.

A dozen years ago, the Seahawks lowered the boom. At Super Bowl LX, they hope to be raising their second Lombardi Trophy.

Craig Ellenport is a senior editor at Athlon Sports. He has covered the NFL for 25 years and is the author of NFL 100: The Greatest Moments of the NFL's Century *(Triumph).*

STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AP IMAGES (Murphy II); STEW MILNE/AP IMAGES (Witherspoon); JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP IMAGES (Jones IV)

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Jody Allen

CHAIR

JODY ALLEN is chair of the Seattle Seahawks and a proud 12 herself, recognizing the team's role as a powerful catalyst for civic pride. She also is chair of Vale Group, which she co-founded with her brother, the late Paul G. Allen, in 1986. For decades, they worked side by side across a range of business and philanthropic initiatives. She led the development of Lumen Field and Lumen Field Event Center, as well as the Moda Center, home of the Portland Trail Blazers, of which she also is chair.

Additionally, Jody is co-founder, board chair, and president of Allen Family Philanthropies; founding director of MoPOP, Seattle's acclaimed museum of popular culture; co-founder and board chair of the Allen Institute, working to solve some of the biggest mysteries of bioscience; board chair of Fund for Science and Technology, a foundation focused on bioscience, the environment, and AI-for-Good; and a board member of the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Ai2). As trustee of the Paul G. Allen Trust, Jody works to ensure Paul's vision is realized for generations to come.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS TEAM OFFICIALS

Jody Allen
Chair

Bert Kolde
Vice Chair

Chuck Arnold
President, Seahawks and First & Goal Inc.

John Schneider
President of Football Operations/ General Manager

Nolan Teasley
Assistant General Manager

Jeff Dunn
Chief Strategy Officer

Ed Goines
Chief Legal Officer

Cindy Kelley
Chief Human Resources Officer

Dave Pearson
Chief Communications Officer

Karen Spencer
Chief Financial Officer

Amy Sprangers
Chief Revenue Officer

David Young
Chief Operating Officer

Mario Bailey
Vice President/Community Engagement & Legends

Sarita Carter
Vice President/Human Resources

Eric Engberg
Vice President/Suites & Premium

Tyson Flandreau
Vice President/Brand & Marketing

Mike Flood
Vice President/Outreach & External Affairs

Peter Fonfara
Vice President/Finance

Zach Hensley
Vice President/Operations & General Manager of Lumen Field

Paimon Jaberi
Vice President/ Business Strategy & Analytics

Marissa John
Vice President/General Counsel

Maurice Kelly
Vice President/Player Affairs

Joey Laine
Vice President/Football Administration

Chris Lawrence
Vice President/Tickets & Premium

Kenton Olson
Vice President/ Digital & Emerging Media

Sam Ramsden
Vice President/Player Performance

William Saguilla
Vice President/Football Finance

Chip Suttles
Vice President/Technology

Karen Wilkins-Mickey
Vice President/Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Lisa Young
Vice President/Corporate Partnerships

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Mike Macdonald

HEAD COACH

Mike Macdonald was named the ninth head coach in Seattle Seahawks history on January 31, 2024.

Macdonald joined Seattle after spending nine of the previous 10 seasons (2014–20; 2022–23) with the Baltimore Ravens, the final two as the team's defensive coordinator. In 2021, he was the University of Michigan's defensive coordinator.

This season, Macdonald led Seattle to its 12th NFC West division title while finishing the regular season with a 14–3 record and the NFC's top seed. Seattle set single-season franchise records for wins (14) and road wins (8), and Macdonald became the first head coach in franchise history to start a career with back-to-back 10-win seasons. The Seahawks' defense finished the regular season ranked first in the NFL in points allowed per game (17.2) and third-down defense (32.1%), and second in yards per play (4.56). Entering Super Bowl LX, Seattle has not allowed a 100-yard rusher in a franchise-record 28 games, the longest active streak in the NFL.

In Macdonald's first season as head coach, Seattle finished second in the NFC West with a 10–7 record, marking the 14th double-digit win season in franchise history and the ninth time reaching 10 wins in the last 13 seasons. Macdonald was the first Seahawks head coach to win 10 games in his debut season.

ASSISTANT COACHES

Aden Durde
Defensive Coordinator

Jay Harbaugh
Special Teams Coordinator

Klint Kubiak
Offensive Coordinator

John Benton
Offensive Line

Mack Brown
Tight Ends

Josh Bynes
Defensive Assistant/LBs

Michael Byrne
Offensive Assistant

Rob Caprice
Defensive Intern

Rick Dennison
Run Game Coordinator/ Senior Offensive Advisor

Devin Fitzsimmons
Assistant Special Teams

Leslie Frazier
Assistant Head Coach

Thomas Garcia
Strength & Conditioning Assistant

Justin Hinds
Defensive Line

Jeff Howard
Safeties

Frisman Jackson
Wide Receivers

Andrew Janocko
Quarterbacks

Ivan Lewis
Director of Player Performance & Development

Quinshon Odom
Offensive Assistant/QC-Off. Line

Tim Ojeda
Strength & Conditioning Assistant

Kirk Olivadotti
Inside Linebackers

Justin Outten
Run Game Specialist/ Assistant Offensive Line

Chris Partridge
Outside Linebackers

Jake Peetz
Offensive Passing Game Coordinator

Mark Philipp
Associate Head Strength & Conditioning

Tyson Prince
Offensive Assistant/Quarterbacks

Karl Scott
Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/DBs

Neiko Thorpe
Defensive Assistant/ Defensive Backs

Danny van Dijk
Head Strength & Conditioning

Jamie Yanchar
Strength & Conditioning Assistant

SCOUTING REPORT

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
NUMERICAL ROSTER

NO	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	BIRTH DATE	NFL EXP	COLLEGE	HOW ACQUIRED
0	DeMarcus Lawrence	LB	6-3	254	4/28/92	12	Boise State	UFA (DAL) '25
2	Drew Lock	QB	6-4	228	11/10/96	7	Missouri	UFA (NYG) '25
3	Nick Emmanwori	S	6-3	220	2/7/04	R	South Carolina	D2(a) '25
4	Michael Dickson	P	6-2	208	1/4/96	8	Texas	D5(c) '18
5	Jason Myers	K	5-10	190	5/12/91	11	Marist	UFA (NYJ) '19
6	Jalen Milroe	QB	6-2	216	12/13/02	R	Alabama	D3 '25
7	Uchenna Nwosu	LB	6-2	265	12/28/96	8	Southern California	UFA (LAC) '22
8	Coby Bryant	S	6-1	205	3/29/99	4	Cincinnati	D4 '22
9	Kenneth Walker III	RB	5-9	216	10/20/00	4	Michigan State	D2(b) '22
10	Cooper Kupp	WR	6-2	207	6/15/93	9	Eastern Washington	FA '25
11	Jaxon Smith-Njigba	WR	6-0	202	2/14/02	3	Ohio State	D1(b) '23
13	Ernest Jones IV	LB	6-2	233	11/22/99	5	South Carolina	T (TEN) '24
14	Sam Darnold	QB	6-3	225	6/5/97	8	Southern California	UFA (MIN) '25
18	Elijah Arroyo	TE	6-5	254	4/5/03	R	Miami (FL)	D2(b) '25
19	Jake Bobo	WR	6-4	211	8/4/98	3	Duke	FA '23
20	Julian Love	S	5-11	195	3/19/98	7	Notre Dame	UFA (NYG) '23
21	Devon Witherspoon	CB	6-0	185	12/11/00	3	Illinois	D1(a) '23
22	Rashid Shaheed	WR	6-0	180	8/31/98	4	Weber State	T (NO) '25
27	Riq Woolen	CB	6-4	210	5/2/99	4	Texas-San Antonio	D5(a) '22
28	Nehemiah Pritchett	CB	6-0	190	2/11/01	2	Auburn	D5 '24
29	Josh Jobe	CB	5-11	190	4/9/98	4	Alabama	FA '24
36	George Holani	RB	5-10	208	12/16/99	2	Boise State	FA '24
38	Brady Russell	FB	6-3	250	8/31/98	3	Colorado	PS (PHI) '23
39	Ty Okada	S	5-11	200	6/4/99	3	Montana State	FA '23
40	Robbie Ouzts	FB	6-3	274	9/6/02	R	Alabama	D5(c) '25
41	Chris Stoll	LS	6-2	255	8/3/98	3	Penn State	FA '23
42	Drake Thomas	LB	5-11	228	2/25/00	3	North Carolina State	W (LV) '23
48	Tyrice Knight	LB	6-0	233	12/20/99	2	Texas-El Paso	D4(a) '24
51	Jared Ivey	LB	6-6	274	12/5/01	R	Mississippi	FA '25
52	Patrick O'Connell	LB	6-1	231	12/31/98	3	Montana	FA '23
53	Boye Mafe	LB	6-4	261	11/30/98	4	Minnesota	D2(a) '22
55	Olu Oluwatimi	C	6-2	309	8/5/99	3	Michigan	D5(b) '23
57	Connor O'Toole	LB	6-3	248	8/27/02	R	Utah	FA '25
58	Derick Hall	LB	6-3	260	3/19/01	3	Auburn	D2(a) '23
61	Jalen Sundell	C	6-5	301	10/18/99	2	North Dakota State	FA '24
64	Christian Haynes	G	6-3	317	4/13/00	2	Connecticut	D3 '24
67	Charles Cross	T	6-5	317	11/25/00	4	Mississippi State	D1 '22
72	Abraham Lucas	T	6-6	322	10/15/98	4	Washington State	D3 '22
74	Josh Jones	G/T	6-7	339	6/22/97	6	Houston	UFA (BAL) '25
75	Anthony Bradford	G	6-4	335	4/28/01	3	Louisiana State	D4(a) '23
76	Grey Zabel	G	6-6	316	3/30/02	R	North Dakota State	D1 '25
78	Mason Richman	T/G	6-5	307	5/7/02	R	Iowa	D7(b) '25
79	Amari Kight	T	6-6	299	12/21/00	R	Central Florida	FA '25
81	Eric Saubert	TE	6-5	248	5/9/94	8	Drake	FA '25
83	Dareke Young	WR	6-2	225	6/4/99	4	Lenior-Rhyne	D7(b) '22
88	AJ Barner	TE	6-6	251	5/3/02	2	Michigan	D4(b) '24
89	Nick Kallerup	TE	6-5	266	3/27/01	R	Minnesota	FA '25
90	Jarran Reed	NT	6-3	315	12/16/92	10	Alabama	D2 '16
91	Byron Murphy II	DT	6-0	306	9/8/02	2	Texas	D1 '24
94	Mike Morris	DE	6-6	306	4/22/01	3	Michigan	D5(a) '23
95	Brandon Pili	NT	6-3	334	4/2/99	3	Southern California	W (MIA) '24
98	Rylie Mills	DE	6-5	296	8/20/01	R	Notre Dame	D5(a) '25
99	Leonard Williams	DT	6-5	310	6/20/94	11	Southern California	T (NYG) '23

Athletic Intelligence is here
OAKLEY
Meta
Marshawn Lynch in Vanguard

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC CHAMPIONS

Elijah Arroyo
TIGHT END (18)

AJ Barner (88)
TIGHT END

Jake Bobo (19)
WIDE RECEIVER

Anthony Bradford (75)
GUARD

Coby Bryant (8)
SAFETY

Charles Cross (67)
TACKLE

Sam Darnold (14)
QUARTERBACK

Michael Dickson (4)
PUNTER

Nick Emmanwori (3)
SAFETY

Derick Hall (58)
LINEBACKER

Christian Haynes (64)
GUARD

George Holani (36)
RUNNING BACK

Jared Ivey (51)
LINEBACKER

Josh Jobe (29)
CORNERBACK

Josh Jones (74)
GUARD/TACKLE

Ernest Jones IV (13)
LINEBACKER

Nick Kallerup (89)
TIGHT END

Amari Kight (79)
TACKLE

Tyrice Knight (48)
LINEBACKER

Cooper Kupp (10)
WIDE RECEIVER

DeMarcus Lawrence (0)
LINEBACKER

Drew Lock (2)
QUARTERBACK

Julian Love (20)
SAFETY

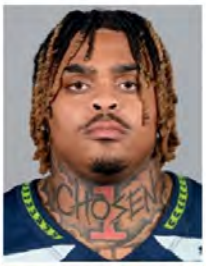
Abraham Lucas (72)
TACKLE

Boye Mafe (53)
LINEBACKER

Rylie Mills (98)
DEFENSIVE END

Jalen Milroe (6)
QUARTERBACK

Mike Morris (94)
DEFENSIVE END



Byron Murphy II (91)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Jason Myers (5)
KICKER

Uchenna Nwosu (7)
LINEBACKER

Patrick O'Connell (52)
LINEBACKER

Connor O'Toole (57)
LINEBACKER

Ty Okada (39)
SAFETY

Olu Oluwatimi (55)
CENTER

Robbie Ouzts (40)
FULLBACK

Brandon Pili (95)
NOSE TACKLE

Nehemiah Pritchett (28)
CORNERBACK

Jarran Reed (90)
NOSE TACKLE

Mason Richman (78)
TACKLE/GUARD

Brady Russell (38)
FULLBACK

Eric Saubert (81)
TIGHT END

Rashid Shaheed (22)
WIDE RECEIVER

Jaxon Smith-Njigba (11)
WIDE RECEIVER

Chris Stoll (41)
LONG SNAPPER

Jalen Sundell (61)
CENTER

Drake Thomas (42)
LINEBACKER

Kenneth Walker III (9)
RUNNING BACK

Leonard Williams (99)
DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Devon Witherspoon (21)
CORNERBACK

Riq Woolen (27)
CORNERBACK

Dareke Young (83)
WIDE RECEIVER

Grey Zabel (76)
GUARD

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC CHAMPIONS

STATISTICAL LEADERS*/ DEPTH CHARTS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	COMP-ATT	PCT	YDS	TD	INT	RTNG
Sam Darnold	323-477	67.7	4048	25	14	99.1

RUSHING

	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Kenneth Walker III	221	1027	4.6	55	5
Zach Charbonnet	184	730	4.0	30	12
Sam Darnold	35	95	2.7	24	0
George Holani	22	73	3.3	9	1

RECEIVING

	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jaxon Smith-Njigba	119	1793	15.1	63	10
AJ Barner	52	519	10.0	61	6
Cooper Kupp	47	593	12.6	67	2
Kenneth Walker III	31	282	9.1	46	0
Zach Charbonnet	20	144	7.2	21	0
Rashid Shaheed	15	188	12.5	33	0
Elijah Arroyo	15	179	11.9	32	1
Tory Horton	13	161	12.4	25	5

DEPTH CHART

WR	10	Cooper Kupp
	22	Rashid Shaheed
	19	Jake Bobo
LT	67	Charles Cross
	74	Josh Jones
	79	Amari Kight
LG	76	Grey Zabel
	64	Christian Haynes
C	61	Jalen Sundell
	55	Olu Oluwatimi
	77	Bryce Cabeldue
RG	75	Anthony Bradford
	64	Christian Haynes
RT	72	Abraham Lucas
	74	Josh Jones
	78	Mason Richman
TE	88	AJ Barner
	81	Eric Saubert
	18	Elijah Arroyo
	89	Nick Kallerup
WR	11	Jaxon Smith-Njigba
	83	Dareke Young
QB	14	Sam Darnold
	2	Drew Lock
	6	Jalen Milroe
FB	40	Robbie Ouzts
	38	Brady Russell
RB	9	Kenneth Walker III
	36	George Holani

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	SOLO	ASSISTS	TOTAL
Ernest Jones IV	60	66	126
Drake Thomas	44	45	89
Nick Emmanwori	56	25	81
Devon Witherspoon	48	24	72
Ty Okada	45	19	64
Coby Bryant	39	25	64
Leonard Williams	33	29	62
Byron Murphy II	22	40	62
Josh Jobe	41	13	54

INTERCEPTIONS

	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ernest Jones IV	5	150	30.0	85	1
Coby Bryant	4	43	10.8	28	0
Derion Kendrick	2	0	0.0	0	0

(Riq Woolen, Julian Love, Devon Witherspoon, Nick Emmanwori, Josh Jobe, Ty Okada, Drake Thomas tied with 1 each)

SACKS

	NO	YDS
Uchenna Nwosu	7.0	54.5
Byron Murphy II	7.0	44.5
Leonard Williams	7.0	44.5
DeMarcus Lawrence	6.0	42.0
Drake Thomas	3.5	20.5

	PASSES DEFENSED	FORCED FUMBLES/ RECOVERIES
Josh Jobe	12	0/0
Riq Woolen	12	0/0
Nick Emmanwori	11	0/0
Drake Thomas	8	0/1

(Coby Bryant, Ernest Jones IV, Devon Witherspoon tied with 7 passes defensed each)

DEPTH CHART

DT	99	Leonard Williams
	90	Jarran Reed
	98	Rylie Mills
NT	91	Byron Murphy II
	95	Brandon Pili
DE	0	DeMarcus Lawrence
	94	Mike Morris
	98	Rylie Mills
RUSH	58	Derick Hall
	51	Jared Ivey
MLB	13	Ernest Jones IV
	48	Tyrice Knight
	52	Patrick O'Connell
WLB	42	Drake Thomas
	48	Tyrice Knight
SLB	7	Uchenna Nwosu
	53	Boye Mafe
	58	Derick Hall
	57	Connor O'Toole
CB	21	Devon Witherspoon
	28	Nehemiah Pritchett
CB	29	Josh Jobe
	27	Riq Woolen
S	8	Coby Bryant
	39	Ty Okada
	3	Nick Emmanwori
S	20	Julian Love
	39	Ty Okada

SPECIAL TEAMS

FIELD GOALS

							PATs	PTS
Jason Myers	41/48	0/0	5/6	14/15	13/15	9/12	48/48	171
	TOTAL	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		

KICK RETURNS

	RET	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
George Holani	16	387	24.2	34	0
Rashid Shaheed	14	418	29.9	100	1

PUNT RETURNS

	RET	FC	AVG	LONG	TD
Tory Horton	16	9	14.9	95	1
Rashid Shaheed	13	17	16.2	58	1

PUNTING

	NO	AVG	NET	TB	IN/20	LONG
Michael Dickson	52	49.0	42.2	3	20	60

DEPTH CHART

K	5	Jason Myers
H	4	Michael Dickson
P	4	Michael Dickson
LS	41	Chris Stoll
PR	22	Rashid Shaheed
	19	Jake Bobo
KR	22	Rashid Shaheed
	83	Dareke Young

SCOUTING REPORT

*REGULAR SEASON

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SUPER BOWL LX

WEEK OF EVENTS

INSIDE

64 Host Committee Welcome

66 Fun for Fans and Family

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75 Get Ready for the Game

80 Media Coverage

82 Gameday Festivities

Welcome from the Bay Area Host Committee

On behalf of the Bay Area Host Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to Super Bowl LX in the Bay Area — a distinct and diverse region where bold ideas, cultural richness, and world-class sporting events come together. From the rolling vineyards of Napa to the innovation hub of Silicon Valley and the urban energy of San Francisco and the East Bay, our nine-county region brings together an extraordinary blend of art, entertainment, ingenuity, and hospitality.

We love our football here in the Bay. But the Super Bowl is about more than gameday — it's a moment to show who we are: diverse, creative, bold, and rooted in community. The Bay Area Host Committee and our partners, alongside the NFL and the San Francisco 49ers, are investing in legacy programs that will uplift local youth through our Sports for All program, small businesses through the NFL's Super Bowl LX Source program, and underrepresented communities with our unprecedented Bridge to Work program. These initiatives will create a lasting impact well beyond Super Bowl Sunday.

Throughout Super Bowl Week, we invite you to explore the Bay Area through NFL- and Host Committee-sanctioned events, including Super Bowl Opening Night Fueled by Gatorade at the San Jose Convention Center, the Super Bowl Experience Presented by Jersey Mike's at San Francisco's Moscone Center, the BAHC Live! San Francisco Fan Zones at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Gardens and Oakland's Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts, *NFL Honors Presented by Invisalign* at the Palace of Fine Arts, the BAHC Live! Concert Series at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, and Taste of the NFL at The Hibernia in San Francisco. We expect more than 90,000 visitors and between $370-630 million in economic impact from the Super Bowl in the Bay Area, and we're thrilled to host each and every fan experiencing this wonderful region.

Super Bowl LX gives us a chance to highlight what sets the Bay Area apart — the way we think, how we solve problems, and how we push the world forward. At BAHC, we bring together local teams, civic partners, community organizations, and businesses to host global events that reflect that spirit and drive real, lasting impact across our region.

A special thank you to our partners who are supporting us in our mission, including civic leaders across the counties of the greater Bay Area, DMO partnerships with SF Travel, Visit Oakland, Discover Santa Clara, Visit Napa Valley, Napa Valley Vintners, Visit Santa Cruz County, San Francisco Peninsula and the East Bay Coalition, San Francisco 49ers organization, and our founding partners, including Boston Consulting Group (BCG), EA SPORTS, Kaiser Permanente, Genentech, and our many other supporting partners. A special thank you to the residents and fans of the Bay Area, without whom none of this would be possible.

Enjoy your time in our region and enjoy the game!

Warm regards,

ZAILEEN JANMOHAMED
President & CEO

BAY AREA HOST COMMITTEE

2026 GLS 450 4MATIC® SUV shown in MANUFAKTUR Signature Mystic Blue metallic paint with Nappa leather-trimmed multifunction steering wheel and topstitched MB-Tex upper dash and door trim. ©2026 Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
For more information, call 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES, or visit MBUSA.com.

The fan-favorite Super Bowl Experience presented by Jersey Mike's takes place at the Moscone Convention Center North and South buildings and Yerba Buena Gardens from Tuesday, Feb. 3, to Saturday, Feb. 7.

This interactive football festival is bringing the NFL to life, offering fans of all ages the opportunity to meet current NFL players and legends, participate in interactive games like the 40-yard dash, snap photos with the Vince Lombardi Trophy, and view all 59 Super Bowl rings. Fans can also shop for exclusive merchandise at the NFL Shop presented by Visa.

To ensure the event is inclusive for everyone, sensory hours will be held on Thursday, Feb. 5, from 3–5 p.m., with adjustments to lighting and sound. Sensory bags will be available to support guests with sensory sensitivities.

In addition, as flag football continues to be an integral part of the NFL's efforts to grow the game and reach new fans, Super Bowl Experience is featuring daily activations and activities, plus select flag events taking place onsite throughout the week. Among these are the Pro Bowl Games powered by Verizon (Feb. 3), Toyota x NFL Flag Glow Up Classic (Feb. 4), and the Super Bowl LX Flag Football Game on YouTube (Feb. 7). Fans with a Super Bowl Experience ticket will have the opportunity to attend these events, based on seating availability.

SUPER BOWL EXPERIENCE INFORMATION

The Moscone Center
Tuesday, Feb. 3 – Saturday, Feb. 7

HOURS OF OPERATION & TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets available at ticketmaster.com and via the NFL OnePass app

DATE	HOURS OF OPERATION	ADULT	KIDS 12 & UNDER	MILITARY	FIRST RESPONDERS
Tuesday, Feb. 3	3 p.m. – 10 p.m.	$40	FREE	$20	$20
Wednesday, Feb. 4	3 p.m. – 10 p.m.	$40	FREE	FREE	$20
Thursday, Feb. 5	3 p.m. – 10 p.m.	$40	FREE	$20	$20
Friday, Feb. 6	3 p.m. – 10 p.m.	$50	FREE	$25	$25
Saturday, Feb. 7	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.	$70	FREE	$35	$35

(Times are subject to change)

In partnership with the Wounded Warrior Project, Wednesday, Feb. 4, will be Military Appreciation Day, allowing free entry for active-duty service members, veterans, and their families.

SBXTRA TICKETS

SBXTRA gives fans priority access to their favorite Super Bowl Experience attractions all day beginning at the time slot purchased. SBXTRA tickets include a general ticket to Super Bowl Experience, which is required for entry into the event. Look for the SBXTRA sign at the following attractions:

- **Vince Lombardi Trophy**
  (one photo for each SBXTRA purchase)
- **Autograph Stage**
  (one autograph for each SBXTRA purchase)
- **Interactive Games**
  (unlimited access)

DATE	PRICING (ALL AGES)
Tuesday, Feb. 3	$120
Wednesday, Feb. 4	$100
Thursday, Feb. 5	$100
Friday, Feb. 6	$120
Saturday, Feb. 7	$140

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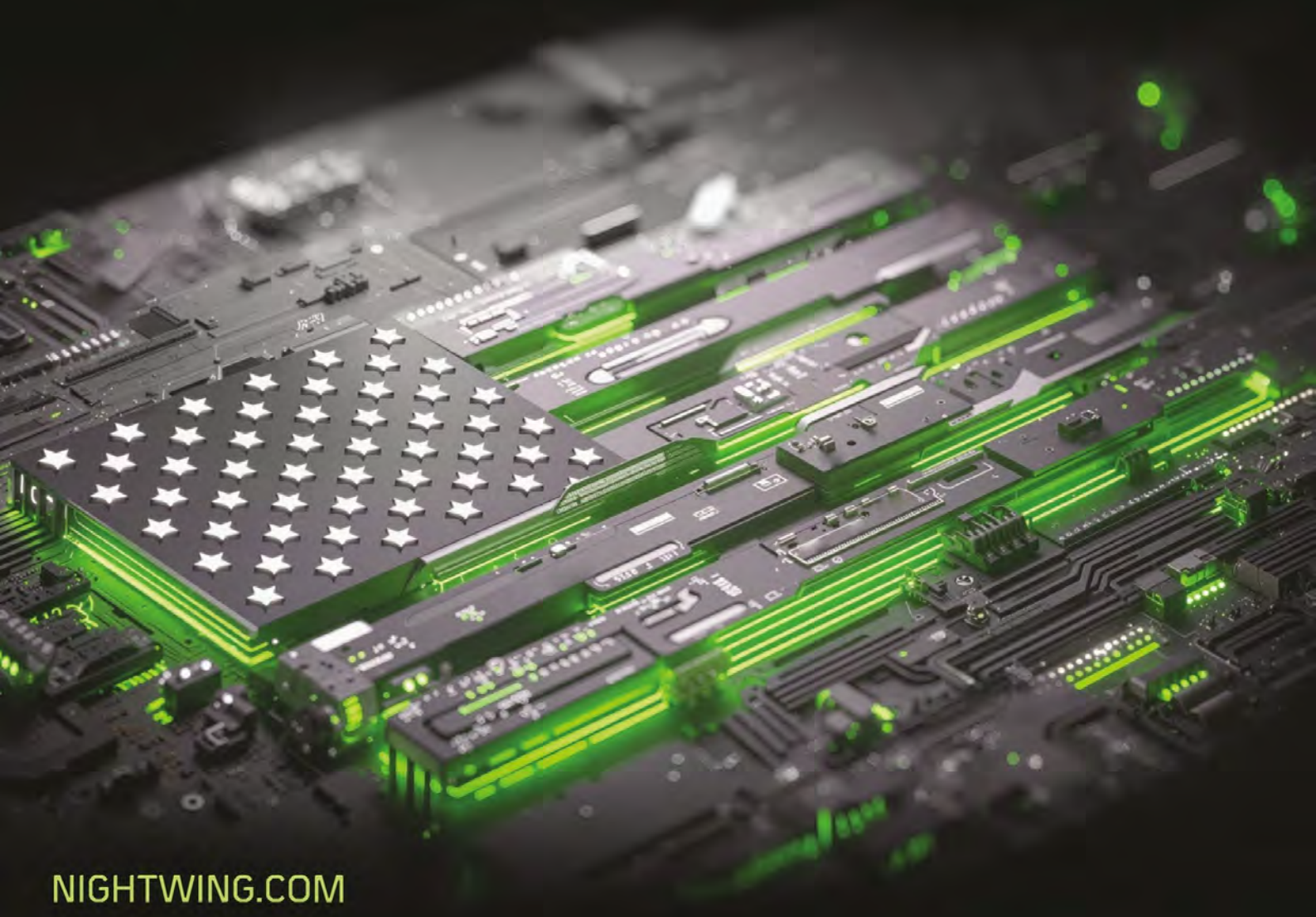
KEEPING OUR NATION SAFE

We build cyber protection for complex environments where performance failure is not an option.

Nightwing provides battle-tested resiliency you can trust with multi-layered cyber capabilities proven to secure systems in the most demanding national security and defense environments.



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Stay Ahead.

NIGHTWING

BAHC Live!
San Francisco Fan Zone at Yerba Buena Gardens and YBCA Forum

Tuesday, Feb. 3 – Saturday, Feb. 7

Yerba Buena Gardens (750 Howard Street)

Hours of Operation
Tuesday – Friday:
3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday:
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

TICKETS (Included with ticket to Super Bowl Experience)

BAHC Live! San Francisco Fan Zone is the premier local fan destination within the NFL Super Bowl Experience — a dynamic, multi-day celebration of sports, culture, and innovation, set in the heart of San Francisco.

Hosted next door to the Moscone Center at Yerba Buena Gardens and the YBCA Forum, this immersive event is bringing thousands of fans together to experience the excitement of Super Bowl Week through a uniquely Bay Area lens, from cutting-edge technology and world-class cuisine to live performances and interactive sponsor activations.

Access to the BAHC Live! Fan Zone is included with a ticket to NFL Super Bowl Experience.

NFL SHOP presented by VISA

THE FLAGSHIP STORE inside the Super Bowl Experience presented by Jersey Mike's will feature core Super Bowl products as well as specialty items, including customizable headwear. The assortment also will include merchandise from all 32 teams. The store is located within Super Bowl Experience at the Moscone Convention Center North and South buildings and requires a ticket for entry.

Dates/Hours

- **Wednesday, Feb. 4** (3 p.m. – 10 p.m.)
- **Thursday, Feb. 5** (1 p.m. – 10 p.m.)
- **Friday, Feb. 6** (3 p.m. – 10 p.m.)
- **Saturday, Feb. 7** (10 a.m. – 10 p.m.)

Other Locations/On-line Stores

Additional NFL Shop presented by Visa locations include The NFL Shop at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis and other satellite locations. For the complete list of locations, dates, and store hours, and to purchase Super Bowl merchandise online, go to **SuperBowl.com** or visit the NFL OnePass app.

ART CREDIT/ART CREDIT

WEEK OF EVENTS Entertainment and Outreach

LIVE EVENTS

SUPER BOWL OPENING NIGHT FUELED BY GATORADE
Monday, Feb. 2 • San Jose Convention Center • 4 p.m.
Fans are invited to the San Jose Convention Center ahead of Super Bowl LX for an exciting evening celebrating the AFC and NFC champions as they arrive in the San Francisco Bay Area. The event will provide an opportunity to hear directly from Super Bowl players and coaches during their only public appearance before the big game. Super Bowl Opening Night promises a thrilling experience with two separate viewing sessions, when fans will have the chance to attend either the AFC champions' appearance or the NFC champions' appearance, which will be held in back-to-back windows from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Fans will be able to cheer on their conference team, hear from players and coaches, and be part of the Super Bowl energy as it officially kicks off in the Bay Area. Live TV coverage begins at 8 p.m. (ET) on NFL Network, NFL+, and Peacock with live reporting and interviews from the heart of the celebration. **Fans interested in attending Super Bowl Opening Night will need to download and register on the NFL OnePass app. Entry is free and will be on a first-come, first-served basis.**

BAHC LIVE! CONCERT SERIES
Feb. 5-7 • Bill Graham Civic Auditorium • 8 p.m.
The Bay Area Host Committee (BAHC) is bringing music to the forefront with the launch of the BAHC Live! Concert Series at the legendary Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, exclusively operated by Another Planet Entertainment. Performing will be: Feb. 5 — Benson Boone with special guest Shaboozey; Feb. 6 — Martin Garrix with special guest Lost Frequencies; Feb. 7 — Chris Stapleton with special guest Sierra Ferrell. A portion of proceeds from the Concert Series will support the Tipping Point Community and the BAHC Foundation's Bridge to Work program. **Tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster.**

BAHC LIVE! OAKLAND FAN ZONE
Sunday, Feb. 8 • Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts • 11 a.m.
Experience Super Bowl Sunday at BAHC Live! Oakland Fan Zone — a free festival and official watch party featuring live entertainment, local vendors, and a spirited celebration of Oakland culture at the historic Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts. **Free RSVPs on Eventbrite; limited seating available for the indoor watch party.**

ON TELEVISION

PRO BOWL GAMES POWERED BY VERIZON
Tuesday, Feb. 3 • ESPN/Disney XD/ESPN Deportes
6:30 p.m. (ET)
For the first time, the Pro Bowl Games powered by Verizon will move to Super Bowl Week and be held in the host city at the Moscone Center South Building. The event brings the league's top players together for an AFC vs. NFC flag football showdown, which will preview the elite athleticism and competition of the sport ahead of its LA28 Olympics debut. The revamped programming gives the league's best athletes an opportunity to compete during the NFL's biggest week of the year, surrounded by their families, friends, and select fans, and provides all fans with a must-see TV event that helps mark the end of the season. The game will air live from the Moscone Center South Building, which will be transformed into a dynamic flag football arena. **Learn more at NFL.com/pro-bowl-games.**

NFL HONORS PRESENTED BY INVISALIGN
Thursday, Feb. 5 • NBC/NFL Network/NFL+/Peacock
9 p.m. (ET)
NFL Honors presented by Invisalign, an Align Technology brand, celebrates the best in the league, recognizing standout performances and achievements from the 2025 season. Hosted this year by Jon Hamm, the annual awards special will take place at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco and feature live entertainment and special guest appearances, and honor the immense talent, dedication, and impact of those who shape the game on and off the field. NFL Network will begin its coverage at 8 p.m. with the Red Carpet show. **Go to NFL.com/honors for more information.**

SUPER BOWL SOULFUL CELEBRATION
Saturday, Feb. 7 • BET • 8 p.m. (ET)
The annual Super Bowl Soulful Celebration is the NFL's only sanctioned inspirational concert, uniting cultures through the power of music and football. This year's event showcases dynamic performances across R&B, Contemporary, and Gospel, building on a legacy of iconic previous performers that include Kirk Franklin, Patti LaBelle, Earth, Wind & Fire, Yolanda Adams, T-Pain, Mary Mary, Snoop Dogg, and Mickey Guyton. The Super Bowl Soulful Celebration also honors NFL players for their impact on and off the field, spotlighting those who are making meaningful contributions to their communities. **For more information, visit superbowlsoulful.com.**

SUPER BOWL LX FLAG FOOTBALL GAME ON YOUTUBE
Saturday, Feb. 7 • YouTube • 10 p.m. (ET)
Showcasing the NFL's commitment to growing flag football globally and connecting with fans worldwide, the NFL Super Bowl LX Flag Football Game at the Moscone Center South Building brings together top talent from across sports, music, and YouTube. **Watch the game on the NFL's official YouTube channel: youtube.com/NFL.**

Bengals QB Joe Burrow participated in last year's Pro Bowl Games. This year's event takes place on February 3 as part of Super Bowl Week.

BEN LIEBENBERG/AP IMAGES

All times PT unless otherwise noted

CAUSES AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

SUPER BOWL BREAKFAST

Saturday, Feb. 7 • Marriott Marquis • 8 a.m.

The NFL-sanctioned Super Bowl Breakfast is a signature Super Bowl Week event highlighted by the presentation of the Athletes in Action Bart Starr Award, which honors one NFL player each year for outstanding character and leadership on and off the field. This year's winner is 49ers running back Christian McCaffrey. Super Bowl-winning head coach Tony Dungy will present the award, with three-time 49ers Super Bowl champion Brent Jones serving as emcee. The program will also feature special appearances from 49ers general manager John Lynch; Andrew Luck, football general manager at Stanford University; longtime 49ers star Bryant Young; and Condoleezza Rice, director of Stanford University's Hoover Institution, with additional NFL legends to be announced. **For tickets and more information, visit superbowlbreakfast.com.**

TASTE OF THE NFL MARQUEE CHEFS (left to right):
Carla Hall, Andrew Zimmern, Lasheeda Perry, and Mark Bucher

NFL TASTE OF THE NFL
GENYOUth FUELING POTENTIAL. EMPOWERING PLAY.

Saturday, Feb. 7
The Hibernia • 4-7 p.m.

A top destination for world-class events, The Hibernia in San Francisco will host Taste of the NFL 2026 during Super Bowl LX weekend. This NFL-sanctioned culinary and gridiron extravaganza brings together renowned chefs from around the nation and the Bay Area, along with NFL legends, for an unparalleled foodie and football experience. Enjoy a curated menu of delectable dishes and wine & spirits reflecting the cultural diversity and innovative spirit of the Bay Area, while mingling with your favorite football greats and enjoying many surprise and delightful moments and exciting entertainment.

All event proceeds will support GENYOUth's commitment to tackling youth food insecurity in the Bay Area and across the nation. **More information and tickets to Taste of the NFL 2026 are available at tasteofthenfl.com.**

Christian McCaffrey will be presented the 2026 Bart Starr Award at the Super Bowl Breakfast.

BEN LIEBENBERG/AP IMAGES (McCaffrey)

APPLY FOR THE CARD
THAT GETS YOU IN THE GAME.

SCORE POINTS[1] WHEN USING THE NFL EXTRA POINTS VISA® CREDIT CARD

REDEEM POINTS[1] FOR:

- Super Bowl Experiences
- Game Tickets
- Sideline Passes
- Plus more!

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

[1]This rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may change at any time. For full Rewards Terms and Conditions, please see comenity.net/nflvisa.

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Your team branded Extra Points Visa Credit Card represents your team affiliation within the NFL Extra Points Visa Credit Card program. Any reference to your team affiliated Extra Points Visa Credit Card is equivalent to the NFL Extra Points Visa Credit Card.

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NFL Network is In the Know

The Super Bowl is back in the Bay Area — and NFL Network is in town to be your one-stop shop for everything surrounding Super Bowl LX!

NFL Network offers complete and wide-ranging on-location coverage of Super Bowl Week, providing more than 11 hours of live pregame and postgame coverage on Super Bowl Sunday, starting at 9 a.m. (ET) with a special 8.5-hour edition of *NFL GameDay Morning* from Levi's Stadium. NFL Network's team of analysts, insiders, and reporters will be on call throughout *NFL GameDay Morning* and, following the game, on *NFL GameDay Final*, providing postgame analysis and live interviews with members of the Super Bowl LX champions.

Throughout the week, wake up with *Good Morning Football* (Monday-Friday at 8 a.m. ET), hosted by Jamie Erdahl, Manti Te'o, Kyle Brandt, Sherree Burruss, and others. Daily editions of *Super Bowl Live* (Monday-Friday at 2 p.m. ET and Saturday at 3 p.m. ET) provide daily updates, analysis, interviews, and practice reports from various locations, including throughout the Bay Area. Recap each day's action with editions of *The Insiders* at 7 p.m. ET on Monday and Wednesday-Saturday, and with *NFL GameDay Kickoff* at 7 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

NFL NETWORK

ABOVE (LEFT TO RIGHT): Rich Eisen, Steve Mariucci, Kurt Warner, Kyle Brandt, and Gerald McCoy will be part of NFL Network's *NFL GameDay Morning* broadcast crew at Super Bowl LX.

On Monday, Feb. 2, NFL Network provides comprehensive coverage of Super Bowl Opening Night at 8 p.m. (ET) when the two teams address the media for the first time ahead of Super Bowl LX. *NFL Honors* airs live on NFL Network on Thursday, Feb, 5, starting with the Red Carpet show at 8 p.m. (ET). NBC's broadcast will begin at 9 p.m. (ET), with streaming on Peacock and NFL+.

NFL Network will also televise press conferences throughout Super Bowl Week, including those with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and *Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show* headliner Bad Bunny.

For the latest information regarding NFL Network's Super Bowl LX coverage, follow **@NFLMedia** on X and Instagram.

NFL ONE PASS

NFL OnePass gives you access to all Super Bowl LX event information and is your go-to guide for Gameday! Please note that NFL OnePass is required to participate in any interactive games on site at NFL Experience. Fans who download and register for the NFL OnePass app will also be entered for a chance to win a pair of tickets to Super Bowl LX.

Visit NFL.com/onepass to download today!

LOGAN BOWLES/NFL

Chronic Migraine making you feel like a spectator in your own life?

You are not alone.

Could it be Chronic Migraine?
Take the Quiz. Just 7 questions. Then share with your doctor.

INDICATION

BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles and used to prevent headaches in adults with chronic migraine who have 15 or more days each month with headache lasting 4 or more hours each day in people 18 years and older.

It is not known whether BOTOX is safe and effective to prevent headaches in patients with migraine who have 14 or fewer headache days each month (episodic migraine).

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

BOTOX may cause serious side effects that can be life threatening. Get medical help right away if you have any of these problems any time (hours to weeks) after injection of BOTOX:

- **Problems swallowing, speaking, or breathing,** due to weakening of associated muscles, can be severe and result in loss of life. You are at the highest risk if these problems are preexisting before injection. Swallowing problems may last for several months.
- **Spread of toxin effects.** The effect of botulinum toxin may affect areas away from the injection site and cause serious symptoms, including loss of strength and all-over muscle weakness; double vision; blurred vision; drooping eyelids; hoarseness or change or loss of voice; trouble saying words clearly; loss of bladder control; trouble breathing; and trouble swallowing.

There has not been a confirmed serious case of spread of toxin effect away from the injection site when BOTOX has been used at the recommended dose to treat chronic migraine.

BOTOX may cause loss of strength or general muscle weakness, vision problems, or dizziness within hours to weeks of receiving BOTOX. **If this happens, do not drive a car, operate machinery, or do other dangerous activities.**

Do not receive BOTOX if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in BOTOX (see Medication Guide for ingredients); had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin product such as Myobloc® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA), Xeomin® (incobotulinumtoxinA), Jeuveau® (prabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Daxxify® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), or Letybo® (letibotulinumtoxinA-wlbg) (this may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products); have a skin infection at the planned injection site.

The dose of BOTOX is not the same as, or comparable to, another botulinum toxin product.

Serious and/or immediate allergic reactions have been reported, including itching; rash; red, itchy welts; wheezing; asthma symptoms; dizziness; or feeling faint. Get medical help right away if you experience symptoms; further injection of BOTOX should be discontinued.

BOTOX®
onabotulinumtoxinA injection

CHRONIC MIGRAINE

FDA-APPROVED AS A PREVENTIVE CHRONIC MIGRAINE TREATMENT
FOR OVER 13 YEARS*

Why wait? Talk to your doctor about BOTOX® for Chronic Migraine.

BOTOX® prevents headaches in adults with Chronic Migraine, 15 or more headache days a month, each lasting 4 hours or more. BOTOX® is not approved for 14 or fewer headache days a month.

BOTOX® prevents, on average, 8 to 9 headache days and migraine/probable migraine days a month (vs 6 to 7 for placebo).

#1
prescribed

The #1 prescribed branded Chronic Migraine preventive treatment†

99%
plan to continue

In a survey, 99% of current BOTOX® users plan on continuing treatment‡

~100%
of plans cover it

~100% of commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid plans provide coverage for BOTOX®§

Learn more about BOTOX® or find a BOTOX® Specialist

*Since FDA approval in 2010.
†Based on IQVIA data from May 2018 to June 2023.
‡2023 BOTOX® Chronic Migraine Patient Market Research BOTOX® Current Users (n=78).
§Data on file as of December 2023. Data subject to change. Data are not a guarantee of coverage, or partial or full payment, by any payers listed. The cost of BOTOX® is different for everyone. It depends on your insurance, how much your insurance covers for BOTOX®, and what your doctor charges you for the procedure. You will want to check the specifics of your insurance plan, including your deductible and out-of-pocket costs.

Tell your doctor about all your muscle or nerve conditions, such as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, myasthenia gravis, or Lambert-Eaton syndrome, as you may be at increased risk of serious side effects, including difficulty swallowing and difficulty breathing from typical doses of BOTOX.

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you have or have had bleeding problems; have plans to have surgery; had surgery on your face; have weakness of forehead muscles, trouble raising your eyebrows, drooping eyelids, and any other abnormal facial change; are pregnant or plan to become pregnant (it is not known if BOTOX can harm your unborn baby); are breastfeeding or plan to (it is not known if BOTOX passes into breast milk).

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Using BOTOX with certain other medicines may cause serious side effects. **Do not start any new medicines until you have told your doctor that you have received BOTOX in the past.**

Tell your doctor if you received any other botulinum toxin product in the last 4 months; have received injections of botulinum toxin such as Myobloc®, Dysport®, Xeomin®, Jeuveau®, Daxxify®, or Letybo® in the past (this may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products; tell your doctor exactly which product you received); have recently received an antibiotic by injection; take muscle relaxants; take an allergy or cold medicine; take a sleep medicine; take aspirin-like products or blood thinner.

Other side effects of BOTOX include dry mouth; discomfort or pain at the injection site; tiredness; headache; neck pain; eye problems such as double vision, blurred vision, decreased eyesight, drooping eyelids, swelling of your eyelids, and dry eyes; drooping eyebrows; and upper respiratory tract infection.

For more information, refer to the Medication Guide or talk with your doctor.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see accompanying Consumer Brief Summary, including Boxed Warning, or visit https://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/botox_pi.pdf for full Prescribing Information.

If you are having difficulty paying for your medicine, AbbVie may be able to help. Visit AbbVie.com/PatientAccessSupport to learn more.

abbvie

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US-BCM-250070 02/25

BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA)
for injection, for intramuscular, intradetrusor, or intradermal use

CONSUMER BRIEF SUMMARY
Consult Package Insert for full Prescribing Information

Patient Information

This summary contains important risk information about **BOTOX**. This brief summary is not comprehensive and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. To learn more, talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist. For a copy of the full Prescribing Information, visit www.BOTOX.com or call 1-800-678-1605.

What is the most important information I should know about BOTOX?

BOTOX may cause serious side effects that can be life threatening, including:
- **Problems breathing or swallowing**
- **Spread of toxin effects**

These problems can happen hours, days, to weeks after an injection of BOTOX. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these problems after treatment with BOTOX:
- **Problems swallowing, speaking, or breathing. These problems can happen hours, days, to weeks after an injection of BOTOX** usually because the muscles that you use to breathe and swallow can become weak after the injection. Death can happen as a complication if you have severe problems with swallowing or breathing after treatment with **BOTOX**.
  - People with certain breathing problems may need to use muscles in their neck to help them breathe. These people may be at greater risk for serious breathing problems with **BOTOX**.
  - Swallowing problems may last for several months. People who cannot swallow well may need a feeding tube to receive food and water. If swallowing problems are severe, food or liquids may go into your lungs. People who already have swallowing or breathing problems before receiving **BOTOX** have the highest risk of getting these problems.
- **Spread of toxin effects.** In some cases, the effect of botulinum toxin may affect areas of the body away from the injection site and cause symptoms of a serious condition called botulism. The symptoms of botulism include:
  - loss of strength and muscle weakness all over the body
  - double vision, blurred vision and drooping eyelids
  - hoarseness or change or loss of voice (dysphonia)
  - trouble saying words clearly (dysarthria)
  - loss of bladder control
  - trouble breathing
  - trouble swallowing

These symptoms can happen hours, days, to weeks after you receive an injection of **BOTOX**.

These problems could make it unsafe for you to drive a car or do other dangerous activities. See "What should I avoid while receiving **BOTOX**?"

There has not been a confirmed serious case of spread of toxin effect away from the injection site when **BOTOX** has been used at the recommended dose to treat chronic migraine, severe underarm sweating, blepharospasm, or strabismus.

What is BOTOX?

BOTOX is a prescription medicine that is injected into muscles and used:
- to treat overactive bladder symptoms such as a strong need to urinate with leaking or wetting accidents (urge urinary incontinence), a strong need to urinate right away (urgency) and urinating often (frequency) in adults when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to treat leakage of urine (incontinence) in adults with overactive bladder due to neurologic disease when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to treat overactive bladder due to a neurologic disease in children 5 years of age and older when another type of medicine (anticholinergic) does not work well enough or cannot be taken.
- to prevent headaches in adults with chronic migraine who have 15 or more days each month with headache lasting 4 or more hours each day.
- to treat increased muscle stiffness in people 2 years of age and older with spasticity.
- to treat the abnormal head position and neck pain that happens with cervical dystonia (CD) in adults.
- to treat certain types of eye muscle problems (strabismus) or abnormal spasm of the eyelids (blepharospasm) in people 12 years of age and older.

BOTOX is also injected into the skin to treat the symptoms of severe underarm sweating (severe primary axillary hyperhidrosis) when medicines used on the skin (topical) do not work well enough.

It is not known whether **BOTOX** is safe and effective in people younger than:
- 18 years of age for treatment of overactive bladder with urinary incontinence
- 5 years of age for the treatment of overactive bladder due to a neurologic disease
- 18 years of age for treatment of chronic migraine
- 16 years of age for treatment of cervical dystonia
- 18 years of age for treatment of hyperhidrosis
- 12 years of age for treatment of strabismus or blepharospasm
- 2 years of age for treatment of spasticity

It is not known whether **BOTOX is** safe and effective to prevent headaches in people with migraine who have 14 or fewer headache days each month (episodic migraine).

It is not known whether **BOTOX** is safe and effective for severe sweating anywhere other than your armpits.

Who should not receive BOTOX?

Do not receive **BOTOX** if you:
- are allergic to any of the ingredients in **BOTOX**. See the end of this Consumer Brief Summary for a complete list of ingredients in **BOTOX**.
- had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin product such as Myobloc® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA), Xeomin® (incobotulinumtoxinA), Jeuveau® (prabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Daxxify® (daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), or Letybo® (letibotulinumtoxinA-wlbg). This may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products.
- have a skin infection at the planned injection site.
- are being treated for urinary incontinence and have a urinary tract infection (UTI).
- are being treated for urinary incontinence and find that you cannot empty your bladder on your own (only applies to people who are not routinely catheterizing).

What should I tell my doctor before receiving BOTOX?

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:
- have a disease that affects your muscles and nerves (such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease], myasthenia gravis or Lambert-Eaton syndrome). See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"
- have allergies to any botulinum toxin product.
- had any side effect from any botulinum toxin product in the past.
- have or have had a breathing problem, such as asthma or emphysema.
- have or have had swallowing problems.
- have or have had bleeding problems.
- have plans to have surgery.
- had surgery on your face.
- have weakness of your forehead muscles, such as trouble raising your eyebrows.
- have drooping eyelids.
- have any other change in the way your face normally looks.
- have symptoms of a urinary tract infection (UTI) and are being treated for urinary incontinence. Symptoms of a urinary tract infection may include pain or burning with urination, frequent urination, or fever.
- have problems emptying your bladder on your own and are being treated for urinary incontinence.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if **BOTOX** can harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if **BOTOX** passes into breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. Using **BOTOX** with certain other medicines may cause serious side effects. **Do not start any new medicines until you have told your doctor that you have received BOTOX in the past.**

Especially tell your doctor if you:
- have received any other botulinum toxin product in the last four months.
- have received injections of botulinum toxin, such as Myobloc® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), Dysport® (abobotulinumtoxinA), Xeomin® (incobotulinumtoxinA), Jeuveau® (prabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Daxxify®

(daxibotulinumtoxinA-lanm), or Letybo® (letibotulinumtoxinA-wlbg) in the past. This may not be a complete list of all botulinum toxin products. Be sure your doctor knows exactly which product you received.
- have recently received an antibiotic by injection.
- take muscle relaxants.
- take an allergy or cold medicine.
- take a sleep medicine.
- take anti-platelets (aspirin-like products) or anti-coagulants (blood thinners).

Ask your doctor if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your doctor and pharmacist each time you get a new medicine.

How will I receive BOTOX?

- **BOTOX** is an injection that your doctor will give you.
- **BOTOX** is injected into your affected muscles, skin, or bladder.
- Your doctor may change your dose of **BOTOX**, until you and your doctor find the best dose for you.
- **Your doctor will tell you how often you will receive your dose of BOTOX injections.**

What should I avoid while receiving BOTOX?

BOTOX may cause loss of strength or general muscle weakness, vision problems, or dizziness within hours to weeks of taking **BOTOX**. **If this happens, do not drive a car, operate machinery, or do other dangerous activities.** See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"

What are the possible side effects of BOTOX?

BOTOX can cause serious side effects. See "What is the most important information I should know about **BOTOX**?"

Other side effects of BOTOX include:
- dry mouth.
- discomfort or pain at the injection site.
- tiredness.
- headache.
- neck pain.
- eye problems: double vision, blurred vision, decreased eyesight, drooping eyelids, swelling of your eyelids, and dry eyes.
- drooping eyebrows.
- urinary tract infection in both children and adults being treated for urinary incontinence.
- painful urination in adults being treated for urinary incontinence.
- bacteria, white blood cells, and blood in the urine of children being treated for urinary incontinence.
- inability to empty your bladder on your own and are being treated for urinary incontinence. If you have difficulty fully emptying your bladder after getting **BOTOX**, you may need to use disposable self-catheters to empty your bladder up to a few times each day until your bladder is able to start emptying again.
- allergic reactions. Symptoms of an allergic reaction to **BOTOX** may include: itching, rash, red itchy welts, wheezing, asthma symptoms, or dizziness or feeling faint. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you are wheezing or have asthma symptoms, or if you become dizzy or faint.
- upper respiratory tract infection.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of **BOTOX**. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of BOTOX:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. This Consumer Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about **BOTOX**. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about **BOTOX** that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in BOTOX?

Active ingredient: onabotulinumtoxinA

Inactive ingredients: human albumin and sodium chloride

Manufactured by: AbbVie Inc.
1 N Waukegan Rd. North Chicago, IL 60064
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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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NBC | peacock

NBC's game coverage of Super Bowl LX will be delivered by (left to right) Kaylee Hartung, Melissa Stark, Cris Collinsworth, and Mike Tirico.

NBC Has SB LX Covered

Super Bowl LX from Levi's Stadium marks NBC's 21st Super Bowl broadcast, with the game also streaming live on Peacock and broadcast in Spanish on Telemundo. In all, NBCUniversal will present 90+ hours of Super Bowl-related coverage across multiple platforms, culminating with the on-field presentation of the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

NBC Sports' Emmy Award-winning team is led by Mike Tirico, calling his first Super Bowl, alongside analyst Cris Collinsworth, who works his sixth Super Bowl in the booth. Melissa Stark and Kaylee Hartung serve as sideline reporters, with three-time Super Bowl referee Terry McAulay as rules analyst.

Coordinating producer Rob Hyland serves as the lead Super Bowl producer, alongside director Drew Esocoff. Fred Gaudelli is the executive producer of NBC Sports' NFL coverage.

Maria Taylor hosts pregame and postgame coverage alongside Jac Collinsworth and Noah Eagle, and they will be joined by *Football Night in America* teammates Tony Dungy, Jason Garrett, Devin McCourty, Chris Simms, Rodney Harrison, Mike Florio, Matthew Berry, and Steve Kornacki.

NBC Sports' Super Bowl Week and pregame coverage is led by executive producer Sam Flood, coordinating producer Tommy Roy, and senior producer Matt Casey, and directed by Pierre Moossa.

Peacock, NBC Sports NOW, and NBCSN offer 50+ hours of original Super Bowl Week content from the Bay Area, including *Pro Football Talk*, *The Dan Patrick Show*, *Chris Simms Unbuttoned*, *Fantasy Football Happy Hour with Matthew Berry*, *Rotoworld Football Show*, and *The Dan Le Batard Show with Stugotz*.

NBCUniversal's extensive Super Bowl LX coverage includes special on-site editions of *TODAY*, *NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas*, and NBC News NOW, as well as reports on NBC Regional Sports Networks and *Access Hollywood*.

Telemundo presents exclusive Spanish-language coverage of Super Bowl LX, featuring five hours of live pregame programming on Super Bowl Sunday, along with comprehensive weeklong coverage. Miguel Gurwitz and Rolando Cantú will call Super Bowl LX, with Adriana Monsalve serving as host.

Throughout Super Bowl Week, *El Pelotazo* — hosted by Verónica Rodríguez, Diego Arrioja, and Pablo Mariño — airs live nightly from Levi's Stadium, delivering interviews, analysis, and behind-the-scenes access. Extensive daily coverage from Media Row airs on the Telemundo Deportes Ahora FAST Channel.

HEAR THE GAME ON WESTWOOD ONE

For the 39th consecutive year and 53rd time overall, Westwood One is the exclusive network radio home of the Super Bowl. Beginning at 5 p.m. (ET), Kevin Harlan and Super Bowl XXXIV MVP and Hall of Fame quarterback Kurt Warner will call the action to millions of listeners across approximately 700 radio stations nationwide, in 175 countries, and more than 200 ships at sea via the American Forces Radio Network. Fans can stream the broadcast on westwoodonesports.com, the Westwood One Sports app, and affiliated stations' primary digital platforms, plus SiriusXM, the NFL app, and NFL+.

Kevin Harlan (left) and Kurt Warner

This is Harlan's 16th Super Bowl broadcast for the network and Warner's eighth. CBS Sports rules analyst and former NFL referee Gene Steratore will join them in the radio broadcast booth.

Laura Okmin will serve as sideline reporter. Scott Graham and Super Bowl 50 champion Ryan Harris host Westwood One's pregame, halftime, and postgame coverage, with former NFL offensive lineman Ross Tucker also contributing. Mike Golic Sr. and Mike Golic Jr. host the *Super Bowl Tailgate Show* starting at 2 p.m. (ET).

Westwood One SPORTS

Westwood One's broadcast day kicks off at noon (ET) with *Super Bowl Preview*. *Super Bowl Insider* begins at 1 p.m., and *Super Sunday* runs from 4-5 p.m.

Mike Eaby is the executive producer of the Super Bowl broadcast on Westwood One. Aaron Cummins and Brian Finkelstein are the coordinating producers.

In addition to being the exclusive network radio partner to the NFL, Westwood One's properties include NCAA basketball, highlighted by the NCAA men's and women's tournaments and the Final Four; the Masters; NCAA football; and U.S. Soccer.

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NFL
WALTER PAYTON
MAN OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY Nationwide

The Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide is the league's most prestigious honor, recognizing players who excel on the field and demonstrate a commitment to creating a positive impact beyond the game.

All 32 club winners are being honored for their impactful work during the week leading up to Super Bowl LX. The 2025 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year is being announced during the *NFL Honors* awards show on Thursday, Feb. 5, and all 32 club winners will be recognized on Super Bowl LX gameday at Levi's Stadium.

The Jaguars' Arik Armstead was the 2024 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award recipient. This year's 32 club winners will be recognized on the field at Super Bowl LX.

First established in 1970, the national award was renamed in 1999 after the late Hall of Fame Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton. Beginning in 2017, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year trophy silhouette came to life in on-field uniforms to further recognize past award winners and current nominees.

The five current players who have won the award — Calais Campbell, Russell Wilson, Dak Prescott, Arik Armstead, and Cameron Heyward — wear a Man of the Year patch on their jerseys to recognize their outstanding contributions to the game and their communities. All 2025 club winners wore a Man of the Year helmet decal beginning in Week 14 to recognize their accomplishments on and off the field.

The charitable beneficiary of each team's club winner will receive up to $40,000, and the nonprofit chosen by the overall national winner will receive up to $250,000. All funds are donations courtesy of the NFL Foundation and the Nationwide Foundation.

Learn more about this year's 32 club winners, their community service, and the history of the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award by visiting **NFL.com/manoftheyear**.

2025 CLUB WINNERS

TEAM	WINNER
Arizona Cardinals	Kelvin Beachum
Atlanta Falcons	A.J. Terrell Jr.
Baltimore Ravens	Derrick Henry
Buffalo Bills	Dion Dawkins
Carolina Panthers	Austin Corbett
Chicago Bears	DJ Moore
Cincinnati Bengals	Ted Karras
Cleveland Browns	Grant Delpit
Dallas Cowboys	Solomon Thomas
Denver Broncos	Garett Bolles
Detroit Lions	DJ Reader
Green Bay Packers	Jordan Love
Houston Texans	Azeez Al-Shaair
Indianapolis Colts	Kenny Moore II
Jacksonville Jaguars	Logan Cooke
Kansas City Chiefs	Travis Kelce
Las Vegas Raiders	Maxx Crosby
Los Angeles Chargers	Cameron Dicker
Los Angeles Rams	Kyren Williams
Miami Dolphins	Bradley Chubb
Minnesota Vikings	C.J. Ham
New England Patriots	Hunter Henry
New Orleans Saints	Demario Davis
New York Giants	Bobby Okereke
New York Jets	Quincy Williams
Philadelphia Eagles	Jordan Mailata
Pittsburgh Steelers	Alex Highsmith
San Francisco 49ers	Curtis Robinson
Seattle Seahawks	Julian Love
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Baker Mayfield
Tennessee Titans	Jeffery Simmons
Washington Commanders	Bobby Wagner

MATT YORK/AP IMAGES (Armstead)

NFL PLAY:60

Meet the NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid

JASMINE, an eighth-grade student from California, has been selected as the NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid for Super Bowl LX. During Super Bowl Week, Jasmine will participate in a series of NFL PLAY 60 community events and once-in-a-lifetime behind-the-scenes experiences — culminating in special on-field recognition at Super Bowl LX.

NFL PLAY 60 is the NFL's national youth health and wellness initiative, encouraging kids to be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day. Jasmine exemplifies the spirit of PLAY 60 through her participation in her school's flag football program and her commitment to living an active, healthy lifestyle — making her a standout representative of the millions of students reached through the NFL and GENYOUth partnership each year.

In addition to her role as the NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid, Jasmine is also serving as ABC's *Good Morning America* Kid Correspondent throughout Super Bowl Week. She will attend marquee NFL events such as *NFL Honors* and Super Bowl Experience, where she'll have the opportunity to interview NFL players and legends and share her perspective as a youth leader on one of the biggest stages in sports.

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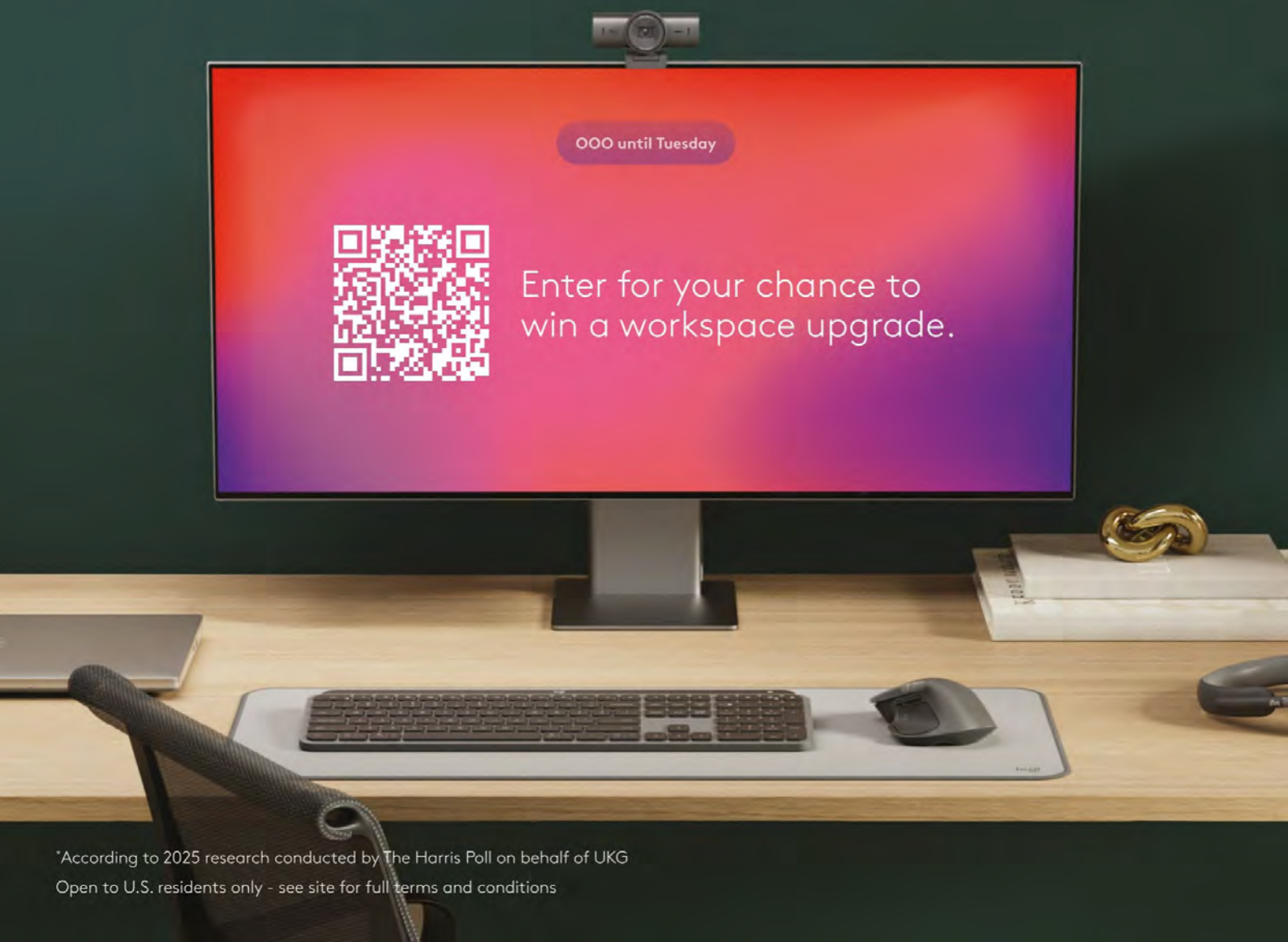

*According to 2025 research conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of UKG

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PREGAME FLYOVER

To commemorate America's 250th birthday, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy are conducting a joint flyover for Super Bowl LX.

The formation, featuring the Air Force's B-1 Lancer, Ellsworth AFB, N.D., and F-15C Eagle, Fresno Air National Guard Base, Calif., alongside the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet and F-35C Lightning II, Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., is a symbol of our nation's journey and independence.

With the bombers' long-range strike capacity and the fighters' next-generation stealth and precision, this flyover demonstrates the power of the Joint Force and the enduring commitment to the ideals of freedom and liberty.

This incredible display of airpower is a powerful reminder of the proficiency and readiness of the aviators and support teams who secure our nation at home and abroad.

Learn more about the Air Force and Navy by scanning these QR codes.

SB 60th Anniversary Celebration

Grammy Award-winning rock band Green Day will open in-stadium festivities by ushering generations of Super Bowl MVPs onto the Levi's Stadium field with a dynamic performance of their most iconic anthems.

The high-energy opening ceremony shines a spotlight on the Super Bowl's 60th anniversary and will air live at 6 p.m. (ET) on NBC, Telemundo, Peacock, and Universo, transforming the stadium and blending music, football, and Bay Area culture into a kickoff celebration for fans.

"We are super hyped to open Super Bowl LX right in our backyard!" said Green Day lead singer and East Bay native Billie Joe Armstrong. "We are honored to welcome the MVPs who've shaped the game and open the night for fans all over the world. Let's have fun! Let's get loud!"

"Celebrating 60 years of Super Bowl history with Green Day as a hometown band, while honoring the NFL legends who've helped define this sport, is an incredibly powerful way to kick off Super Bowl LX," said Tim Tubito, NFL senior director, event and game presentation. "As we work alongside NBC Sports for this opening ceremony, we look forward to creating a collective celebration for fans in the stadium and around the world."

GAMEDAY EXPERIENCE presented by Bud Light

All Super Bowl LX ticket holders are invited to Gameday Experience presented by Bud Light at Levi's Stadium, starting at 11:30 a.m. Fans can enjoy numerous attractions, including iconic photo opportunities, the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the full collection of 59 Super Bowl rings, exclusive merchandise at NFL Shop presented by Visa, food and beverage for purchase, Super Bowl entertainment, and Fan Rally Zones.

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Before Kickoff

The *Super Bowl LX Pregame Show* will highlight a trio of standout performers: Charlie Puth will hit the stage to sing the national anthem, Brandi Carlile will take on "America the Beautiful," and Coco Jones will sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

"These artists bring a distinct voice to the moment, helping set the tone for a day that will captivate fans around the world," said Jon Barker, senior vice president of global event production for the NFL.

The national anthem and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" will be performed by deaf performing artist Fred Beam in American Sign Language. Julian Ortiz will sign "America the Beautiful."

Puth is a four-time Grammy-nominated singer known for his songs "Attention," "We Don't Talk Anymore," and his 2015 breakout hit "See You Again," with Wiz Khalifa, from the *Furious 7* soundtrack. His fourth studio album, *Whatever's Clever!*, is slated for release on March 6.

Carlile has won 11 Grammys and gained acclaim for her eighth studio album, *Returning to Myself*, which was released in October. She was nominated for two Grammys with Elton John: for the album *Who Believes in Angels?*, released in April 2025; and the song "Never Too Late" from his documentary film *Elton John: Never Too Late*.

Jones is a rising R&B star who won a Grammy in the best R&B performance category for her song "ICU" in 2024. Her debut album, *Why Not More?*, was nominated this year for best R&B album. She also stars as Hilary Banks on the Peacock television series *Bel-Air*.

Bad Bunny Breaks New Ground at SB LX

Three-time GRAMMY Award-winning global recording artist Bad Bunny is set to perform at the *Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show*, becoming the first solo Latino artist to do so.

"What I'm feeling goes beyond myself. It's for those who came before me and ran countless yards so I could come in and score a touchdown. This is for my people, my culture, and our history," said Bad Bunny. "Ve y dile a tu abuela, que seremos el HALFTIME SHOW DEL SUPER BOWL."

His latest album, *Debí Tirar Más Fotos*, was released in January 2025 and spent four weeks atop the Billboard 200. It includes the singles "DTMF" and "Baile Inolvidable," both of which reached the Top 5 of the Hot 100.

Born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, Bad Bunny won his first Grammy in 2021 for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance for "Un Dia (One Day)." He followed that with back-to-back wins for Best Musica Urbana Album for *El Último Tour Del Mundo* — the first all-Spanish album to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 — in 2022 and for *Un Verano Sin Ti* in 2023. The latter additionally earned him a Grammy nomination for Album of the Year, the first time a Spanish-language album competed for the top honor. He's also won 11 Latin Grammy Awards.

Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter, the founder and chairman of Roc Nation, which partners with the NFL for live music entertainment, said, "What Benito has done and continues to do for Puerto Rico is truly inspiring. We are honored to have him on the world's biggest stage."

Jon Barker, SVP of Global Event Production for the NFL, said, "Bad Bunny represents the global energy and cultural vibrancy that define today's music scene. As one of the most influential and streamed artists in the world, his unique ability to bridge genres, languages, and audiences makes him an exciting and natural choice to take the Super Bowl halftime stage. We know his dynamic performances, creative vision, and deep connection with fans will deliver the kind of unforgettable experience we've come to expect from this iconic cultural moment."

"The Halftime Show is the ultimate celebration of music and culture, and few artists embody that intersection more perfectly and authentically than Bad Bunny," noted Oliver Schusser, Apple's Vice President of Music, Sports, and Beats. "At Apple Music, we've had the privilege of working closely with Bad Bunny over the years, and watching his meteoric rise into one of the most influential artists of our time has been truly incredible. His music has not only broken records but has elevated Latin music to the center of pop culture, and we are thrilled to once again partner with the NFL and Roc Nation to deliver this historic performance to millions of fans worldwide. We know this show will be unforgettable."

Bad Bunny previously appeared at the *Super Bowl LIV Halftime Show* during Shakira and Jennifer Lopez's set, where he performed his No. 1 hit "I Like It" with Cardi B and J Balvin.

The *Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show* telecast will be produced by DPS with Roc Nation and Jesse Collins serving as executive producers, and Hamish Hamilton serving as director. Roc Nation also serves as the strategic entertainment advisor of the live performance.

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AS THE SUPER BOWL HITS ITS LATEST MILESTONE, HERE'S THE STORY OF HOW THE NFL'S EVOLUTION INJECTED NEW DRAMA ON THE GAME'S GRANDEST STAGE. BY JEFFRI CHADIHA

Giants defender Michael Strahan (92) brings the pressure on Patriots QB Tom Brady during Super Bowl XLII. The teams have played two of the most exciting Super Bowls in history, with the Giants pulling out last-minute victories in each one.

SETTLE IN FOR

The anxiety surged through Rod Smith as he walked around the crowded Qualcomm Stadium field prior to Super Bowl XXXII. As his Denver teammates warmed up for their meeting with the Green Bay Packers, the Broncos' wide receiver couldn't stop obsessing over the fact that he finally was playing in the world's grandest football game.

Smith had already hustled back to the locker room bathroom a few times since his arrival and kept fidgeting to the point that he figured another trip would be necessary.

He strolled into the locker room a few minutes later and sidled up to a urinal. He glanced over to his right and saw ESPN broadcaster Tom Jackson, a former standout linebacker for the Broncos, a few stalls down. Smith quickly noticed something different about the normally jovial Jackson, a simmering intensity suggesting Jackson was as incensed about Denver being an 11-point underdog as the Broncos were.

"Tom, the bad part is that when we win," Smith said, "they're going to say it was an upset."

The Broncos ultimately proved Smith right, getting the tie-breaking touchdown with under two minutes to play in a 31-24 victory. The win gave future Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway the first of his two championships, introduced the world to the dominance of running back Terrell Davis, and cemented head coach Mike Shanahan as one of the NFL's brightest offensive minds.

Terrell Davis (30) rushed for three touchdowns in Denver's Super Bowl XXXII win, the last of those on a 1-yard run with 1:45 remaining that broke a 24-24 tie.

Something else happened during that contest that became pivotal to the way the Super Bowl was viewed. Denver's tight victory over Green Bay kicked off a series of contests that transformed the event into can't-miss drama.

Only eight of the first 31 Super Bowls had been decided by a touchdown or less. The last 28 contests have produced a much different look, with 15 ending in one-score games. Two of the last eight have gone into overtime. As the league prepares for its 60th edition of the Super Bowl, it's clear that suspense has become a major part of the story.

"What we showed (in Super Bowl XXXII) was that people put too much emphasis on the regular season," Smith says. "What it comes down to is getting to the playoffs and then to the Super Bowl. It's literally another season at that point."

"When you think about the Super Bowl in the 1970s and the 1980s versus today, you can see there is a lot

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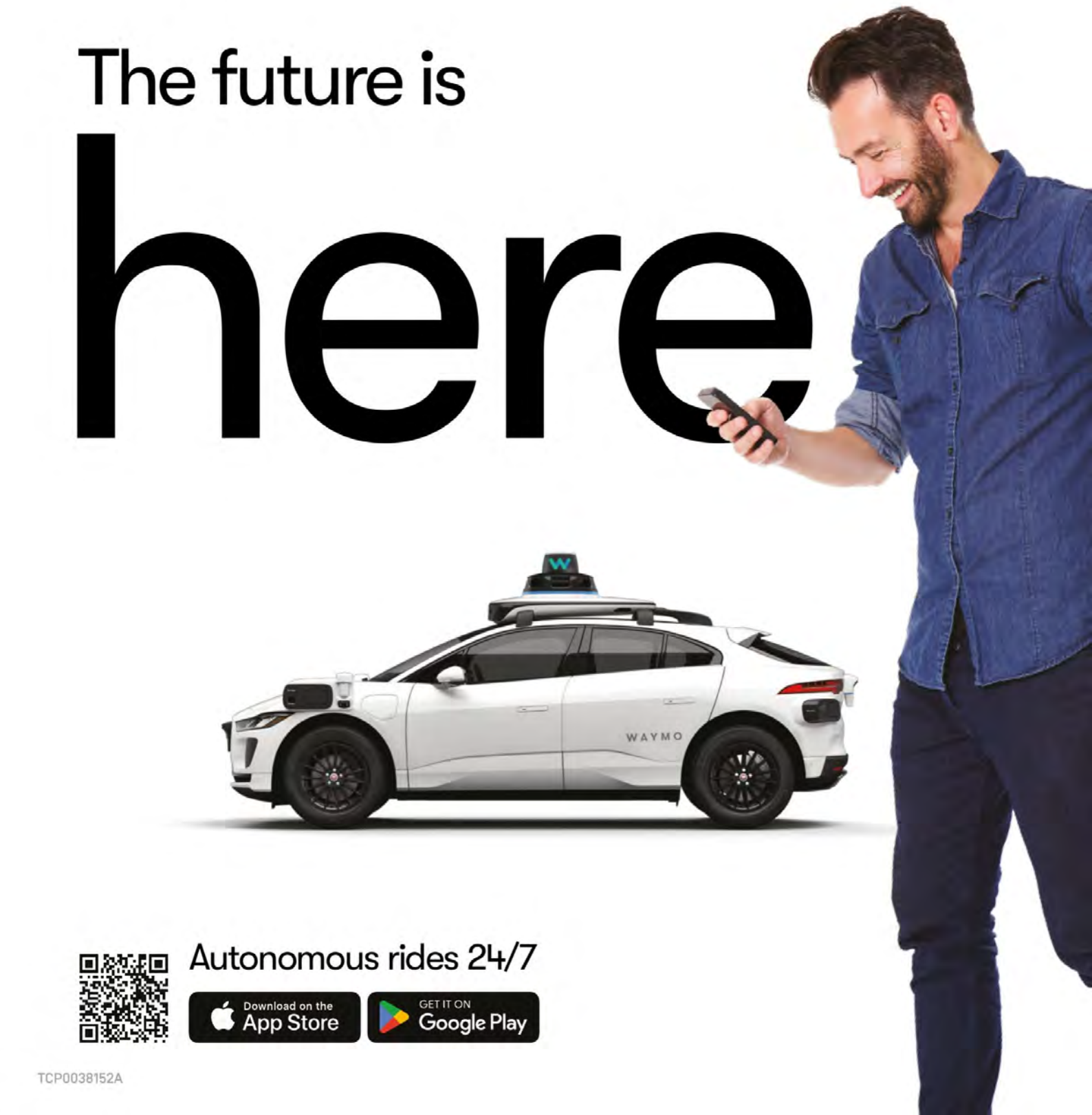

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more talent on every team now," notes former New York Giants defensive end Justin Tuck, who played on two championship teams. "Every year, there's a team that gets hot at the end of the season, whether they get healthy or make a move to get a guy. You see teams figure things out, and once they get into the postseason, anything can happen. There's just a ton of parity today."

Tuck's Giants won two of the most suspenseful Super Bowls ever, both against the New England Patriots. The first was a 17-14 thriller in Super Bowl XLII that handed New England its only defeat of the 2007 season. The second was a 21-17 victory four years later in Super Bowl XLVI, after the Giants finished the regular season with a 9-7 record. Both games featured tense moments that brought out the best in New York, from the leaping 32-yard catch wide receiver David Tyree made on the game-winning drive in the first meeting to quarterback Eli Manning hitting wide receiver Mario Manningham with a perfectly thrown 38-yard pass to set up the deciding touchdown in the second one.

The Giants weren't considered the favorite in either game. What they had going for them, as Tuck noted, was the league's increasing competitive balance, especially as teams became more savvy about managing the salary cap and operating in free agency. Every team has its strengths in today's NFL. The deciding factor in the Super Bowl is which squad can make the most of those assets.

The Giants had their defense and Manning's "clutch" gene. The New Orleans Saints had the dynamic head coach-quarterback combination of Sean Payton and Drew Brees and the devotion of an entire city pushing them during their Super Bowl XLIV win over Indianapolis. That game was sealed with a turnover — when Saints cornerback Tracy Porter returned an interception 74 yards for a touchdown in the final minutes of a 31-17 win — but New Orleans also understood it was playing for a city that had endured decades of losing and was still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"The city embraced us like we were all one," says former Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma. "If there was ever pressure, this was it. Forget about losing a game. We couldn't let the city down."

Those Saints also evolved by going through difficult times. They finished 8-8 a year earlier and lost six games by five points or fewer. Those close defeats helped the team understand how thin the margin is between winning and losing in the NFL. That likely was a key factor in another huge play in that Super Bowl — a recovered onside kick to start the second half — and those critical moments have decided other games as well.

As much as fans remember the six championships the Patriots won, they sometimes forget about the little things that went in New England's favor. A poor kickoff by John Kasay set up the game-winning drive in

The Colts were driving for a potential game-tying score late in Super Bowl XLIV when the Saints' Tracy Porter (22) ended those hopes with a 74-yard interception return for a TD that clinched New Orleans' first Super Bowl win.

MIKE GROLL/AP IMAGES

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SETTLE IN FOR 60

New England's 32-29 win over the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII, while a Malcolm Butler interception in the final minute saved the Super Bowl XLIX victory over Seattle.

"When you get in those tight situations, it comes down to who executes the best," says Damien Woody, who played on New England's first two Super Bowl champions. "To me, there wasn't a better coach than Bill Belichick as far as getting your guys ready for those tight situations."

Belichick was a master motivator who could use creative mind games to inspire his players. He also had no problem taking a more straightforward approach when he deemed it necessary. In the days leading up to Super Bowl XXXVIII, he often implored his players to not underestimate a Panthers team that had won the NFC despite going 1-15 two years earlier.

Malcolm Butler's goal-line interception in the closing seconds of Super Bowl XLIX secured the Patriots' fourth Super Bowl championship.

"These guys are tough," Belichick told his team repeatedly prior to that matchup. *"They will beat you if you take them for granted."*

Green Bay Packers head coach Mike Holmgren tried a similar, less successful tactic in Super Bowl XXXII — "I just couldn't get the players to believe Denver was good," he said — but the Packers weren't the only ones thinking they had it made. Smith spent that Sunday morning watching the pregame shows and hearing several analysts praise Green Bay. It made plenty of sense at the time. Not only were the Packers aiming for a second consecutive championship, the previous 15 Super Bowls had been decided by an average of 20.7 points.

Those early Super Bowl blowouts had plenty to do with some franchises keeping their core intact for years — the Steelers in the 1970s, the 49ers in the '80s, and the Cowboys in the early '90s — and the Packers appeared to be the next blossoming dynasty. What Smith couldn't understand was how those same broadcasters ignored Denver's impressive attributes. The Broncos led the league in points and total yards in 1997. They also had a sizable chip on their shoulder after being upset by Jacksonville in the divisional round the previous season when they were the AFC's No. 1 seed.

Following that 30-27 loss, Terrell Davis and tight end Shannon Sharpe sat on the bench, watching all the distraught Denver fans trudge out of their home stadium. Once those players finally walked to the locker room, they vowed to never blow another opportunity like that.

"It turned out to be a good thing that we lost that Jacksonville game," Davis says. "We knew nothing was guaranteed."

That same focus was evident when the Packers scored on the opening drive of Super Bowl XXXII. Smith was sitting next to Sharpe as they watched Brett Favre hit Antonio Freeman on a 22-yard touchdown pass. Smith and Sharpe then pounded each other's fists and nodded.

"They got theirs," Sharpe said. "Now let's go get ours."

The Broncos responded with a 1-yard touchdown run by Davis and set a tone that has become familiar in most of the thrilling Super Bowls of the past two decades. There's always a point when the audience understands the game will come down to the wire. Woody sensed it in Super Bowl XXXVIII, when the Panthers overcame an 11-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to take a 22-21 lead with just under seven minutes remaining. In both of New York's Super Bowl wins over New England, that evidence showed up early with the Giants' ability to relentlessly pressure quarterback Tom Brady.

Tuck said the Giants also had an added advantage in their second Super Bowl meeting.

"I've never talked to Tom about this, but I felt as though he wanted some redemption in that game," Tuck says. "Maybe they wanted to rectify what that whole team thought was a fluke in the first [Super Bowl]. We felt like we had the upper hand. We were playing with house money because we beat New England in that first game, and we still matched up well."

KATHY WILLENS/AP IMAGES

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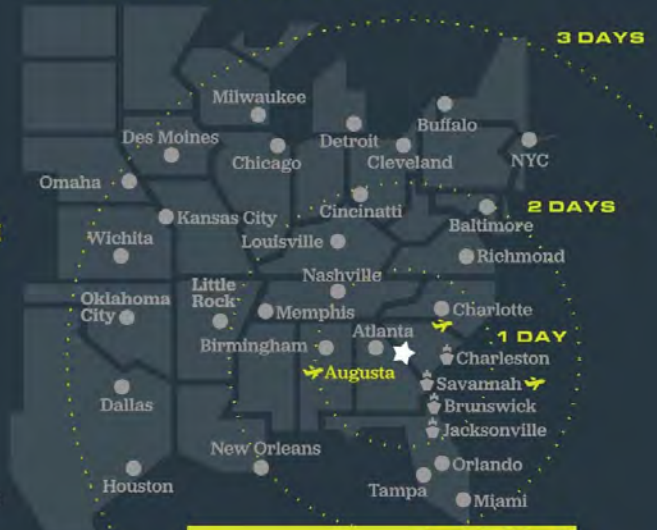

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Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp (10) hauls in the winning touchdown catch with 1:25 to play in Super Bowl LVI against the Bengals.

The Los Angeles Rams learned a different lesson from a loss to New England in Super Bowl LIII that helped them in a 23-20 victory over Cincinnati in Super Bowl LVI. The Rams had the advantage of playing on their home field, SoFi Stadium, in that second contest, but they also had more maturity. They ultimately won the game on two key fourth-quarter sequences — a 15-play drive that culminated with a 1-yard touchdown pass from Matthew Stafford to Cooper Kupp, and an incomplete pass by Joe Burrow that was caused by Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald pressuring the throw — and it was the Rams' focus in those intense moments that stood out. They simply didn't rattle when the game mattered most.

Rams head coach Sean McVay instilled that mental toughness in his team and continues to reinforce it to this day.

"Sean says humility is only a week away when it comes to the NFL," explains Rams offensive tackle Rob Havenstein. "All these teams are good. All it takes is one good day for somebody or one off day for somebody else. There are great players all over the league, and the ones who get to the Super Bowl are there for a reason."

That's a lesson the Broncos believed they taught the world back in the 1997 season. In fact, Smith still bristles whenever he sees video of former Packers safety Eugene Robinson on the sideline during Super Bowl XXXII, when Robinson admonished his teammates for allowing a supposedly lesser team to compete with them. Robinson simply couldn't see how fast the NFL was changing in those days. The league was evening out in a way that would lead to its marquee event becoming even more special.

The Broncos were simply one of the first teams to make that apparent.

"Green Bay looked at us like they were just going to run over us because that's what dominant teams had done in the past," Smith says. "We proved that stuff just doesn't matter. I remember being asked all the time that week about the other Super Bowls Denver had lost in the '80s. I always told the media that was ancient history. The only thing that matters in the Super Bowl is what you do once you get there."

Jeffri Chadiha is a senior columnist with NFL.com and an on-air personality with NFL Network. He won a Sports Emmy in 2009, and his book with Hall of Fame receiver Cris Carter, Going Deep: How Receivers Became the Most Compelling Figures in Pro Sports, *was published in 2013.*

The DeBartolo family is pictured outside Edward J. DeBartolo Hall at the University of Notre Dame. **FRONT** (left to right): Tony York, Jenna York, and Mara York; **BACK**: Denise DeBartolo York, Edward DeBartolo Sr., and Jed York.

THE Family BEHIND THE Faithful

CHAMPIONSHIPS MADE THE 49ERS ICONIC — BUT IT'S THE DEBARTOLO AND YORK FAMILIES' ENDURING SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT HAS DEFINED THE FRANCHISE. BY ELLIE CAPLE

The story of the San Francisco 49ers is often told through the championships they have won, the iconic players who have worn the Red and Gold, and the moments that have changed the game forever. But underneath it all is the story of the family who built the franchise around their deep sense of responsibility to deliver for the 49ers Faithful and uplift the community they represent.

That story begins well before the day Edward DeBartolo Sr. purchased the 49ers in 1977.

The son of Italian immigrants, DeBartolo Sr. grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, where he learned an unshakable work ethic and a deep respect for

The opening of Levi's Stadium in 2014 ushered in a new era for the 49ers and the Bay Area. More than 10 million guests have passed through its gates.

ABOVE: DeBartolo Sr., Denise DeBartolo York, and John York pose with the Stanley Cup after the Pittsburgh Penguins' victory in 1991.

BELOW (Left to right): Jed York, Brixton York, Jaxon York, and Danielle York hold the George Halas Trophy after the 49ers' 2023 NFC title game win.

people. Throughout his career, he was known for being the first to arrive at work and the last to leave, and for knowing the name of every employee as well as their children and their families. With that mentality, he built the world's largest shopping center business.

When the family acquired the 49ers, DeBartolo Sr.'s son, Eddie Jr., instilled those same values to shape the team's philosophy. From the outset, the family viewed the 49ers not simply as a business, but as a public trust.

The 49ers always prioritized supporting players off the field, caring for their families, and creating an environment that enabled them to focus on the game. That philosophy extended to every employee.

As Eddie Jr. said during his 2016 Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement, "Because of my father, I understood how our success didn't just depend on the owners or the players, but on everybody."

That mindset ushered in one of the most storied periods in NFL history; the 49ers won five Super Bowl championships and became one of the most successful franchises the league has ever seen.

Today, the family's sense of responsibility is carried forward by CEO and Principal Owner Jed York, Chief Impact Officers Jenna York and Mara York, and Co-Chairs Denise DeBartolo York and Dr. John York.

Each brings a distinct perspective. Denise is a respected sports executive who previously served as president of the Pittsburgh Penguins, becoming one of the first female executives to win a Stanley Cup. Dr. John York is a cancer research pathologist and successful entrepreneur who continues to shape the future of football as chair of the NFL's Health and Safety Advisory Committee. Jenna and Mara grew up with the 49ers, working for the team's community relations department and the Foundation for years before being named chief impact officers. Jed has served as CEO of the 49ers since 2010 and assumed the role of principal owner in 2024.

Though their roles differ, DeBartolo Sr.'s vision remains their foundation: work hard, take care of people, and give back.

"This team belongs to the community," Jed says. "Our responsibility is to honor that by how we compete, how we operate, and how we show up for the people who believe in us."

One of the York family's most consequential decisions was the transition from Candlestick Park to Levi's® Stadium in 2014. The first new stadium built in California in nearly 50 years, it reflected the family's desire to create a home to better serve the fans, support the team's long-term success, and generate lasting regional impact.

From the beginning, enhancing the fan experience at Levi's Stadium was the central priority. Embracing the spirit of Silicon Valley, the 49ers launched VenueNext, a first-of-its-kind SaaS platform that allowed fans to manage tickets, navigate the stadium, and order concessions from their phones. The innovation quickly spread throughout other sports and entertainment venues, and in 2021, Shift4 purchased VenueNext.

The York family also envisioned the stadium as more than a gameday venue. Ten years after opening, the Denise DeBartolo York

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So far, Levi's Stadium has generated more than $2 billion for the Bay Area economy, created more than 12,000 jobs, and delivered over $500 million in wages to local workers. More than 10 million guests have passed through its gates. And in 2026, Levi's Stadium is making history as the first venue to host both the Super Bowl and FIFA World Cup in the same calendar year — generating an estimated $1 billion for the region this year alone.

Girls flag football captains pose with Jenna and Mara York in the Denise DeBartolo York Education Center at Levi's Stadium in 2025.

Reflecting on the 49ers' ability to attract these major events, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said, "This would not have happened certainly without the leadership and the desire of the York family, and particularly Jed and his organization, of making sure that they put the best foot forward for this community and wanting to make sure that this community was presented on this kind of a stage to the world."

The family also understands that honoring the Faithful demands competing at the highest level on the field. In 2017, Jed paired John Lynch and Kyle Shanahan, establishing one of the NFL's most effective coach-general manager partnerships. In their first nine years together, the 49ers reached four NFC Championship Games and two Super Bowls, cementing their status among the league's most consistent contenders.

The same values are reflected in the 49ers Foundation, which under the York family's leadership has grown into the largest team foundation in the NFL. Since 1991, it has invested more than $70 million in the Bay Area — $46 million in the past five years. The team's deep commitment to the community earned it recognition as ESPN's 2017 Sports Humanitarian Team of the Year. Most recently, Jenna and Mara announced the evolution of the Foundation's mission to educate and empower Bay Area youth and beyond.

"That single word, 'beyond,' represents our commitment to impacting the lives of young people in the Bay Area and around the world," Jenna says.

Mara adds, "We've seen firsthand how football can break down barriers, inspire confidence, and open doors to new opportunities. We are investing in the next generation so they can tackle what's possible on and off the field."

That same spirit is reflected in the Tony York Unity Award, created in 2025 in honor of the family's beloved son and brother. Moving forward, the scholarship will recognize exceptional high school flag and tackle football players who demonstrate the same dedication to community service and power to inspire others that Tony exemplified throughout his life.

"For generations, the 49ers have brought people together across neighborhoods and backgrounds. The York family's commitment to our city has helped make this team part of the city and region they represent," says San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie. "Thank you to Jed and the entire York family for uplifting our communities and representing the Bay Area proudly."

Jed has extended DeBartolo Sr.'s mindset beyond football, partnering with Al Guido, Brano Perkovich, and Paraag Marathe to apply the organization's philosophy across industries. The 49ers seeded Elevate, a global agency led by Guido that now serves more than 1,000 clients. Through 49ers Enterprises, Marathe has revitalized UK football clubs like Rangers and Leeds United, returning Leeds to the Premier League in just two seasons. At Aurum Partners, Perkovich has led early venture investments into 70+ companies across sports and technology.

Even in unexpected places, DeBartolo Sr.'s influence endures. A lifelong wine enthusiast, his passion inspired Jenna and Mara to launch JennaMarise, a thoughtfully crafted wine brand now featured through Appellation 49 at Levi's Stadium.

At every stage — from football strategy to community impact to global growth — the York family's work reflects the same belief Edward DeBartolo Sr. lived by: hard work matters, people matter, and giving back is paramount. As the next generation grows, that sense of responsibility remains unchanged. Because for the San Francisco 49ers, success has never been measured solely by what they build, but by who they impact along the way.

Ellie Caple is the vice president of corporate communications and public affairs for the San Francisco 49ers. She is in her fourth season with the team.

Washington receiver Ricky Sanders found himself center stage for the most explosive quarter in Super Bowl history, catching scoring passes of 80 and 50 yards during the second quarter of the team's 42-10 win over the Broncos in Super Bowl XXII.

MADE FOR THE MOM

BY TOM PELISSERO

Both superstars and those in supporting roles have built legacies

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Linebacker Rod Martin was a solid player across his 12-year career with the Raiders — twice earning All-Pro honors — but is best known for his three-interception game in Super Bowl XV against the Eagles.

ENT

by being at their best in the postseason.

BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Jerry Rice has a tough time choosing his favorite playoff memory.

The legendary wide receiver had 215 receiving yards in Super Bowl XXIII, helping the San Francisco 49ers edge the Cincinnati Bengals. The following year, Rice totaled 148 yards and three touchdowns in a Super Bowl XXIV blowout of the Denver Broncos. But the first one he mentions is Super Bowl XXIX: a rout of the San Diego Chargers in which Rice, at 32 years old, put up 149 yards and three TDs despite playing through a severely separated shoulder and pregame illness.

"I remember what I had to endure to still make plays and inspire my team," Rice recalled recently of that 49-26 victory in January 1995. "In a situation like that, there's just no way you could pull that off. But I had trained my body in a certain way where I was able to endure that pain and still make plays and help my team win that Super Bowl.

"I was trying to be one of the best football players to ever play the game. If you go back and look at all my Sunday night games, my playoff games, *Monday Night Football*, Super Bowls — that's when I performed at my best. A lot of athletes, you don't see that. It seems like it's the opposite thing; the bigger the game, some of these guys, they really don't perform as well. But I challenged myself to always perform on the big stage at my best."

From Rice to teammates Joe Montana and Steve Young, and from Tom Brady to Terrell Davis and Marcus Allen, an elite fraternity of Pro Football Hall of Famers dot the most legendary performances in playoff history.

But just like all NFL players, postseason and Super Bowl heroes come in all shapes and sizes — some merely continuing on their paths to greatness, others seemingly emerging from the shadows to produce legendary moments that cannot be forgotten.

- Linebacker Rod Martin is best remembered for his three interceptions in the Raiders' 27-10 Super Bowl XV triumph over the Philadelphia Eagles — not only setting a single-game Super Bowl record that remains unmatched, but tying the career mark as well. (Three years later, Martin had a sack, a fumble recovery, and a key fourth-down stop in the Raiders' Super Bowl XVIII thrashing of Washington.)
- Washington receiver Ricky Sanders was also part of two Super Bowl wins. His legacy is a then-record 193 receiving yards — including touchdown grabs of 80 and 50 yards in a game-changing second quarter— that remains second only to Rice in Super Bowl history. Sanders had 235 total yards in that 42-10 win over the Broncos in Super Bowl XXII.
- Timmy Smith barely played on that same Washington team during the 1987 regular season, carrying the ball just 29 times in seven games. But with the rushing attack struggling in the playoffs, head coach Joe Gibbs discovered a spark with his rookie fifth-round pick. Despite finding out only shortly before game time that he'd be starting against Denver, Smith rushed for 204 yards, a Super Bowl record that still stands, highlighted by a 58-yard TD scamper.

"I was numb, man," Smith told *Sports Illustrated* in 2016. "After that game, I've got all these people coming at me, but I wanted to go back on the field. After I got through running over them, I felt like I couldn't be stopped. Once you get that feeling, it's unstoppable."

- Five years earlier, John Riggins put Washington on his back. Riggins' 610 rushing yards in the 1982 playoffs remains an NFL record and helped drive Washington

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to its first Super Bowl win. (For comparison, Terrell Davis ranks second with 581 rushing yards in the 1997 postseason; Saquon Barkley had 499 rushing yards last year for the Eagles.)

- In the 1983 playoffs, Marcus Allen amassed 584 yards from scrimmage and five touchdowns — in only three games — while helping the Raiders dominate the field on the way to victory over Washington in Super Bowl XVIII. When President Ronald Reagan called to congratulate the team, he famously told head coach Tom Flores: "I have already had a call from Moscow. They think that Marcus Allen is a new secret weapon, and they insist that we dismantle it."
- Eli Manning made the playoffs only six times in 16 seasons with the Giants, who lost their postseason opener in four of those years. But Manning was at his best in the 2007 and 2011 postseasons, throwing for a combined 15 touchdowns with just two interceptions as New York twice upended Brady and the New England Patriots — in Super Bowls XLII and XLVI.
- Joe Flacco has never made a Pro Bowl. But he had one of the most spectacular playoff runs in NFL history with the Ravens after the 2012 season, throwing for 1,140 yards and 11 touchdowns without an interception on the way to a thrilling 34-31 win over the 49ers in Super Bowl XLVII.
- Nick Foles had nearly retired a year before rejoining the Eagles as a backup quarterback in 2017 with the encouragement of his wife, Tori, who had been struggling with a serious nervous system disorder. When NFL MVP candidate Carson Wentz suffered a season-ending knee injury in December, Foles took over and was nearly flawless. He threw for 971 yards and six touchdowns in the playoffs, including three TD passes and a fourth receiving on one of the most iconic plays in playoff history — the "Philly Special" — in a wild 41-33 win over the Patriots in Super Bowl LII.

"The entire journey, Tori being sick, me almost stepping away from the game, me being traded; everything just sort of flashed in front of my eyes," Foles later told NFL Films of the moment he held his infant daughter, Lily, as confetti fell at U.S. Bank Stadium. "But then I got to look in my daughter's eyes and it was just so simple: I wanted my daughter, when she looks back and she gets older and gets to know more about her daddy and everything, that she would be proud of everything that I do."

In Super Bowls XLII and XLVI, Eli Manning stepped up in the final minutes to lead the Giants on touchdown drives that defeated the Patriots.

Some of the biggest defensive names in modern NFL history also have made their playoff mark.

Hall of Famers Ed Reed and Ronnie Lott are tied with Bill Simpson and Charlie Walters for the playoff record with nine interceptions.

Eight Canton enshrinees — Bruce Smith, Reggie White, Randy White, Dwight Freeney, Charles Haley, Carl Eller, Richard Dent, and Ted Hendricks — are among the 23 players to register double-digit playoff sacks (the individual sack became an official statistic in 1982). Harvey Martin, who earned Super Bowl XII co-MVP honors for the Dallas Cowboys' win over the Broncos, holds the unofficial record with 17.3.

One year after nearly retiring, Nick Foles was the unlikely catalyst of the Eagles' first Super Bowl title. He threw three touchdown passes and caught another in the team's Super Bowl LII victory over New England, then celebrated the moment with his daughter, Lily.

GREGORY PAYAN/AP IMAGES (Manning); FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP IMAGES (Foles)

JOHN BIEVER/GETTY IMAGES

John Taylor had just one reception in Super Bowl XXIII, but it was the game's biggest play: a 10-yard touchdown catch in the final minute to lift the 49ers over the Bengals for their third Super Bowl title.

Haley won five Super Bowl rings and had 4.5 of his 11 playoff sacks in those games, including two for the 49ers in Super Bowl XXIII, one of them helping stop Cincinnati's final drive.

"My first Super Bowl, I was playing against Anthony Muñoz, and I'd never met anybody who speaks Spanish," Haley recalled recently. "He said something in Spanish that scared me, and I went to the sidelines and didn't want to go back in. Ronnie (Lott) came over like, *'What's your problem?'* When [Lott] slapped me upside the head on that one, from that day on, I did what he always said: Play the game without fear."

The only player with more Super Bowl rings than Haley is Brady, who compiled a 35-13 record as a playoff starter, including 10 Super Bowl appearances. He won a record seven championships: six with the Patriots and one with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after the 2020 season, improbably taking home his fifth Pete Rozelle Award as Super Bowl MVP at age 43.

Montana quarterbacked four Super Bowl wins for the 49ers, securing his place as one of the greatest players of all time. Young started the other, throwing for six touchdowns in that win over the Chargers and eventually joining Montana in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Both got help from Rice, who still owns several Super Bowl records, including career yards from scrimmage (604), receiving yards (589), receiving touchdowns (eight), and points (48). He's the only player to score three touchdowns in a Super Bowl twice.

But one of Rice's fondest memories is his role as a decoy on John Taylor's winning touchdown catch in Super Bowl XXIII against the Bengals, capping a 92-yard drive in the game's final minutes.

"We moved the ball all the way downfield and won that Super Bowl, and I remember when John Taylor made that catch. It was like I caught the ball. I got the best role ever on that play. I got a chance to be Denzel Washington. I got a chance to win that Oscar, just run across the field, knowing the defense was going to focus on me and just hearing the crowd start cheering, because I knew that John Taylor made that catch. That was so cool.

"It's just all about playing your best football during the greatest experience of your life. I still believe that we have the greatest sport ever, and to play it for over 20 years and be able to bring fans to their feet is something you never forget."

Tom Pelissero co-hosts The Insiders *on NFL Network. He lives outside Minneapolis with his wife and two daughters.*

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PLAYED AT LEAST THEIR FINAL COLLEGE SEASON IN **CALIFORNIA**

NICK WASS/AP IMAGES (Daniels); MIKE ROEMER/AP IMAGES (Love); DOUG MURRAY/AP IMAGES (Allen); JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP IMAGES (Romo)

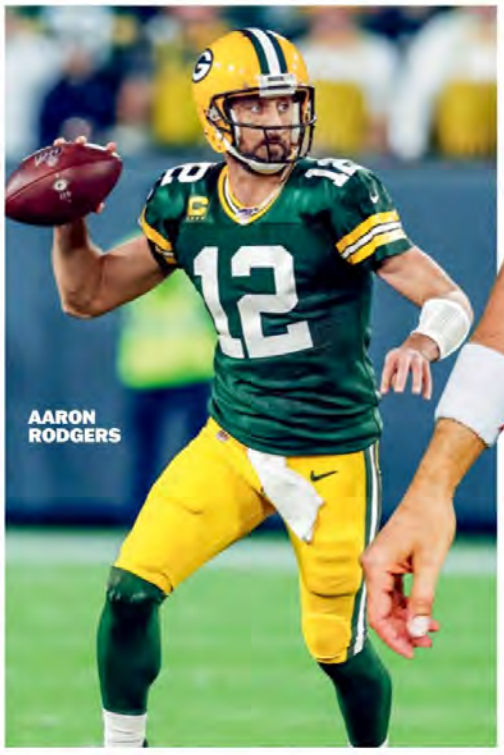
WITH ITS CLIMATE, COACHING, AND COMPETITION, CALIFORNIA HAS BECOME GROUND ZERO FOR DEVELOPING NFL QUARTERBACKS.

BY JUDY BATTISTA

STATE

Like many California-raised quarterbacks, the Commanders' Jayden Daniels (right) was inspired by stories of Joe Montana and Steve Young, who drove the great 49ers teams of the 1980s and '90s. INSET: Among the many Golden State natives who've become NFL quarterbacks are (clockwise from top) Jordan Love, Josh Allen, and Tony Romo.

GOLDEN ARM STATE



When Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels was growing up in San Bernardino, Calif., his father, Javon — a lifelong San Francisco 49ers fan — would regale him with the lore of Joe Montana, his favorite player. Daniels heard a lot about Montana over the years, but the most frequently told story was about Montana's legendary moment of calm, when the 49ers' quarterback was so unruffled during the game-winning drive in Super Bowl XXIII that he pointed out to his teammates actor John Candy in the crowd.

"It's self-explanatory," Daniels says. "It's why they called him Joe Cool."

The Golden State was on the quarterbacking map long before then — Joe Kapp and Pat Haden were collegiate stars there — but the position's prominence in the state might always be defined by the dominance and style of those 49ers. During their dynasty, which spanned much of the 1980s and '90s, the 49ers perfected the West Coast offense that still informs offensive play today, went to the playoffs in 15 of 17 seasons, won five Super Bowls, and minted two Hall of Fame signal-callers in Montana and Steve Young.

As the NFL exploded in popularity, it was Montana and Young who made a profound imprint on the state's aspiring quarterbacks. Daniels heard so often about the 49ers that he became a fan himself — he rooted for them when they were led by Colin Kaepernick and was crushed when they came up just shy of winning Super Bowl XLVII. No less a Californian than Tom Brady, who hails from San Mateo, grew up a fan of both Montana and Young — he dressed as Montana for Halloween in 1983 — and he was at Candlestick Park with his family for the NFC Championship Game in January 1982 for The Catch, the immortal reception by the late Dwight Clark that sent the 49ers on their way to the first of those five championships.

"I always felt like when you watched Joe play, he was

MATT PATTERSON/AP IMAGES (Goff); ARNA DEDERT/AP IMAGES (Montana); JEFF HAYNES/AP IMAGES (Rodgers); BOB GALBRAITH (Young)

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in complete control, and whenever he dropped back to pass, I thought something good was going to happen," Brady once told Peyton Manning for an episode of *Peyton's Places*. "You get spoiled when you watch that growing up."

The trickle-down effect of that inspiration — combined with California's immense population, prodigious sports facilities, and year-round mild weather that allows outdoor training — has made the state something of a high-level QB incubator.

According to NFL Media research, California is the home state of 160 quarterbacks who have played in at least one NFL game (Texas is second with 116, Pennsylvania ranks third with 73). That includes everyone from former Dallas Cowboy Tony Romo (San Diego) and the Pittsburgh Steelers' Aaron Rodgers (Chico) to the Houston Texans' C.J. Stroud (Rancho Cucamonga) and the Buffalo Bills' Josh Allen (Firebaugh).

Of all the quarterbacks to appear in a game in NFL history, 127 played at least their final college season in California, far more than those who played their final season in Texas (88), the second-place state, or Indiana (46), which comes in third. Andrew Luck and John Elway went to Stanford. The Carr brothers — David and Derek — are from Bakersfield and starred at Fresno State. Carson Palmer was born in Fresno and went on to win the Heisman Trophy at USC. Sam Darnold went to USC, too, after throwing a football as a kid on the beach in San Clemente, where he grew up. Troy Aikman spent his early childhood in the Los Angeles area, moved to Oklahoma, then moved back to attend UCLA. Jared Goff was born in Novato and went to the University of California, as did Rodgers. Rodgers, incidentally, wore a Montana shirt under his Cal jersey, while Goff wears the number 16 in Montana's honor.

California presents a nearly perfect cauldron for conjuring successful quarterbacks. Its population of

TOM BRADY

DAVID CARR

DEREK CARR

ANDREW LUCK

WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP IMAGES (Brady); DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP IMAGES (David Carr); GREGORY BULL/AP IMAGES (Derek Carr); DARRON CUMMINGS (Luck)

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COLIN KAEPERNICK

nearly 40 million is the largest in the United States, so, as Daniels put it, "You have some leeway to find a quarterback." A plethora of retired players live there, too, passing on their knowledge in a parade of camps. And the relatively recent explosion of 7-on-7 football, which showcases the passing attack, found an early foothold in the state, giving young quarterbacks lots of opportunities to hone their skills.

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love grew up in Bakersfield, idolizing Michael Vick, as so many others his age did. But Love learned how to play football in youth camps run by David and Derek Carr, local heroes who showed Love there was a path from his neighborhood to the game's highest levels. As he got older, he played in 7-on-7 tournaments throughout California.

"We've got really good athletes in California," Love says. "You grow up playing ball, guys are exposed at a young age. The level of competition, there are a lot of good quarterbacks and a lot of good players everywhere. I went to some of the different camps in high school, and I was around really good talent. All of that pushes you."

Derek Carr's football hero was, not surprisingly, his big brother David. He wanted to be just like him. Derek began his high school career in Texas, soon after David became the first-ever draft pick of the Houston Texans and the Carr family moved. Derek returned to Bakersfield for his senior year of high school before following in his brother's footsteps at Fresno State. *Friday Night Lights* may have burnished forever the image of Texas football, but California was always at least its equal.

"Playing in California gave me opportunities to go against great competition," Derek Carr says. "I remember it was really good; it reminded me of some of the players I would play in Texas."

California was among a handful of states that was an early embracer of the modern 7-on-7 game, which has no contact or tackling and an emphasis on passing, route running, and defensive coverage. The nature of the game gives young quarterbacks opportunities for practice and development in the high school off-season and offers increased exposure for college recruiting, especially important for kids who play in areas that may be under-recruited, as Love believed his area was. Daniels played 7-on-7. So did Love, Carolina's Bryce Young, and a host of others.

"I'm a believer that it helps quarterbacks, especially at the high school level, grow their game," Love says. "You work on passing the ball. Depending on the talent level at your high school, you might not be doing as much of that at a younger age."

Love started playing 7-on-7 his freshman year in high school. By his junior year, he had joined Ground Zero, a 7-on-7 team based in Inland Empire for which Daniels also played.

"That's when I started experiencing being on a really good team," Love recalls. "I got exposed to the best competition in the California area there, going against the best skill players, too."

An example of the caliber of competition quarterbacks get in 7-on-7: Camryn Bynum, now a starting safety for the Indianapolis Colts, also played for Ground Zero.

Allen's rise was relatively unorthodox compared to the trajectory of many of today's elite young quarterbacks. He grew up in a small farming town in the Central Valley,

ABBIE PARR/AP IMAGES (Darnold); JEFF HAMNES/AP IMAGES (Kaepernick); BOB GALBRAITH/AP IMAGES (Elway); ERIC GAY/AP IMAGES (Stroud)

about 40 miles from Fresno, and didn't focus solely on football as many of his contemporaries would (though he was a Fresno State fan and one of his childhood highlights was meeting Derek Carr). Allen was not a widely known prospect, in part because he did not attend quarterback camps and his high school didn't compete in 7-on-7 camps — because so many of the kids played other sports during the year. He spent one year at a small California junior college, and that's where he caught the eye of Wyoming coaches who had visited the school to scout someone else.

Stroud's origin story, on the other hand, took advantage of the competition. Opponents first noticed him when he was a boy in youth league — he was taller and could throw the ball 50 yards, so opposing coaches complained, believing he had to be older than his team claimed. Still, he was overshadowed by other quarterbacks until he went to a regional camp for high schoolers and wowed coaches as the unheralded prospect who torched defenses. That camp helped him catch the eye of Ohio State.

Bryce Young, as a youngster, would train by running the stairs at the Rose Bowl, near his Pasadena home. He would throw to older players — college stars — among them USC's Robert Woods and JuJu Smith-Schuster, both of whom went on to the NFL.

Daniels first started playing as a 5-year-old on a flag team — his dad was his coach — but he didn't become a quarterback until he was 7. A YouTube video of a young Daniels shows him throwing deep passes and running quarterback keepers. Later there would be a personal quarterback coach, but Daniels points to those early years as formative.

"It's how we were taught — we were taught Xs and Os," Daniels says. "Growing up, going to camps, I was competing against my friends: Bryce Young, C.J. Stroud, Jordan Love. Now you see us in the NFL; it's like a company of California quarterbacks. It was a healthy competition."

And the competition was sophisticated. The style of 7-on-7 play demanded the kinds of skills needed by quarterbacks at top collegiate programs and in the NFL.

"It helped out a lot," Daniels explains. "You're forcing yourself to make a couple of reads, a couple of throws. Since 7-on-7 is man coverage, it forced you to make anticipatory throws and throw into tight windows for sure."

That is how quarterbacks from all over have always won. The Californians, Daniels figures, just had a leg up, playing in an area flush with programs and coaches that supported their development and around other players who could challenge them.

And, Daniels noted, California does offer some natural enticements that few other places can. David Carr understands that, too. On his way to go surfing with his daughter one morning, Carr joked it might be one of the main reasons why the quarterbacks in California are so good.

TROY AIKMAN

BRYCE YOUNG

CARSON PALMER

"You pay for it in California taxes, but it's worth it for the weather," Daniels says. "You can train. California is the best state in America. That's why you see all the California quarterbacks are so cool, calm, and collected. It's the great vibes."

Judy Battista is an award-winning reporter who has covered the NFL since 2000. She is a co-host of The Insiders *on NFL Network and is the senior national columnist for NFL.com.*

GLENN JAMES/AP IMAGES (Aikman); DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP IMAGES (Young); PETER MORGAN/AP IMAGES (Palmer)

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LATE RISERS

Stories abound of teams that were counted out before they came through when it counted most. BY BARRY WILNER

NFL history is packed with champions that nobody saw coming — those dismissed, derailed, or even down-and-out until the very moment they won it all.

Remember the 1997 Broncos, who came up empty in four previous trips to the Super Bowl? Quarterback John Elway took them on a helicopter spin of a championship run.

How about "Ray's Last Ride" with the 2012 Ravens, when future Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Lewis bid farewell to the NFL with an unexpected and emotional title march.

They're among the many teams that had bumpy rides on the way to Super Bowl Sunday. Here are some others that few believed would end their season by lifting the Lombardi Trophy.

FLY EAGLES FLY

Neither of Philadelphia's two championships in the last eight seasons came easily.

Well, it sure looked smooth in 2017 when the Eagles soared to 10-2 as second-year quarterback Carson Wentz led the MVP race.

"As the season went along, things kind of fell into place," says Doug Pederson, the team's head coach from 2016-20. "As you win games in any league, it breeds the most confidence you can have. We had the confidence we were going to win every Sunday."

Injuries to five major contributors didn't slow the Eagles. But then Wentz tore his ACL against the Rams and the "woe are we" fandom imagined a collapse.

Instead, in stepped backup Nick Foles. Seven weeks later, Philadelphia was facing

TIMOTHY A. CLARY/GETTY IMAGES

Quarterback John Elway led a Broncos breakthrough with a 31-24 victory over Green Bay in Super Bowl XXXII. Denver, which had come up short in its first four Super Bowl appearances, scored a late touchdown to secure the win.

defending champion New England in Super Bowl LII.

"We drafted Nick in 2012, then got him back a few years later," Pederson explains. "Nick's the type of guy who knew he didn't have to go out and win the game, just steer the ship and let the guys around him make the plays."

The most notable play, of course, was the Philly Special in which Foles *caught* a fourth-down touchdown pass from tight end Trey Burton. But it was after falling behind, 33-32, that Philly flew highest with a monumental 75-yard touchdown drive — followed by a clinching strip-sack of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady by Brandon Graham.

"The way we ended that game was a culmination of how we played all season," Pederson says.

And just last season, the Eagles powered and tush-pushed their way to another crown — but only after an uninspiring 2-2 start. Considering they lost six of their final seven games in 2023, the crack in the team resembled the one in the Liberty Bell.

Yet out of its bye week, Philly won 12 of its final 13 regular-season contests, then ripped through four playoff games, the last of those a 40-22 manhandling of two-time defending champion Kansas City in Super Bowl LIX.

"The character and swagger of [that] Eagles team was something truly special to behold," says retired six-time all-Pro center Jason Kelce, an authority on the subject considering he spent his entire 13-year career with the club. "A true representation of the toughness and grit that makes Philadelphia what it is."

KURT WHO?

"Prior to the start of the 1999 season," then-Rams head coach Dick Vermeil recalls, "I met with (team) president John Shaw and said that I really believe this is going to be a good football team.

"John said to me: 'All coaches tell me that before the season.'

"So, I said, 'I hope I'm the first one who is right.'"

He was.

Still, adversity hit immediately. Quarterback Trent Green, a prized free-agent signee from Washington, injured his knee in preseason and was lost for the year — often a death knell for a team.

Searching the league for a veteran QB was discussed. The decision? Go with virtually untested former Arena Football League and NFL Europe alum Kurt Warner.

"For the whole season in 1998, I stood in the secondary to watch the [scout team] offense run by Kurt," Vermeil says. "He would throw the ball so well, and I thought, 'Either our defense is very poor or this kid could play.'"

He could.

"I thought he would play well," Vermeil says with a chuckle, "but didn't know he could play *that* well."

Behind Warner, Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt, Marshall Faulk, a superb offensive line, and the play calling of offensive coordinator Mike Martz, "The Greatest Show on Turf" was born. The Rams won their first six games, including a 42-20 rout of San Francisco, which had won 17 straight meetings between the teams.

After losses at Tennessee and Detroit, doubt could have crept in. Instead, they won seven more games, finished 13-3, and secured the top seed in the NFC.

The Rams then won diametrically opposite playoff games, 49-37 against Minnesota and 11-6 against Tampa Bay. Years later, Hall of Famer Faulk credited the defense for winning the season's last two games — the second being a 23-16 victory over Tennessee in Super Bowl XXXIV.

Faulk has a point. The Rams blanked the Titans until the final seconds of the third quarter. But led by Eddie George's two touchdown runs, Tennessee tied it with 2:12 remaining, only for Warner to immediately answer by hitting Bruce with a 73-yard scoring bomb.

Then the defense rose again on one of the spotlight plays of any Super Bowl: Mike Jones' tackle of receiver Kevin Dyson at the 1-yard line to end the game.

Practically unknown when the 1999 season began, Rams QB Kurt Warner was a Super Bowl MVP when it ended. He threw for 414 yards, including a tie-breaking 73-yard touchdown pass to Isaac Bruce, in his team's 23-16 win over Tennessee in Super Bowl XXXIV.

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A team that had struggled mightily throughout 1990s finished the decade owning the Lombardi Trophy.

"We handled adversity as well as any team," Vermeil says. "A complete effort to work like champions to become champions."

TOM TERRIFIC

Long before he became a football and cultural icon, Tom Brady was a backup to Drew Bledsoe. And their Patriots were a team struggling under head coach Bill Belichick.

Bledsoe went down with a serious rib injury in Game 2 of the 2001 season, and Brady, the 199th overall pick in the previous year's draft, was all Belichick had left. Turns out that was pretty much all he would ever need.

There was little evidence of that as New England sputtered to a 5-5 mark while Brady adapted to the NFL. A solid defense kept the team afloat until, suddenly, the Patriots became unstoppable. They won their final six regular-season games, then, aided by the "tuck rule" in the snow, shocked the Raiders to open the playoffs.

"You could tell something special was coming together," Brady says.

Maybe. Winning at top-seeded Pittsburgh in the AFC Championship Game, however, would be tougher because Brady was now injured. But Bledsoe had healed, stepped in, and the defense carried the day.

That left a difficult decision for Super Bowl XXXVI against the Rams. Belichick chose Brady, who incredibly took a nap following early warmups. But after the Patriots saw a 14-point lead slip away in the fourth quarter, the young QB masterfully marched his team to Adam Vinatieri's game-winning field goal as the clock hit zero.

"That's what legends are made of," Bledsoe says. "Two-minute drive in the Super Bowl to win the game."

ADVERSITY TO DYNASTY

The beleaguered 49ers had never won an NFL title and were 8-24 under head coach Bill Walsh entering the 1981 season. Nobody could predict what was ahead.

"We were an afterthought," says standout center Randy Cross, who was entering his sixth season with the team. "We weren't the team to beat for sure. The Super Bowl aspirations were on the East Coast."

Buoyed by a draft that brought almost an entire defensive backfield, including Ronnie Lott, and a veteran line anchored by Cross, the Niners also had developing stars in tight end Dwight Clark, linebacker Keena Turner, and a quarterback named Joe Montana.

Still, they started 1-2.

"We were much more positive than people would sort of expect," Cross recalls. "We knew how much better

ATKINS/AP IMAGES

Coach Bill Walsh (left) and QB Joe Montana ushered in the 49ers dynasty by defeating Cincinnati in Super Bowl XVI. After not winning an NFL title in its first 31 years in the league, San Francisco captured five Lombardi Trophies between the 1981 and 1994 seasons.

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we were than the record. The West Coast offense was taking hold."

Indeed. San Francisco won its next seven games, including a rout of powerful Dallas and a shutdown of the Steelers that Cross called "convincing to everyone."

A 13-3 record earned San Francisco the NFC's top seed. But, after beating the Giants, the 49ers welcomed Dallas into Candlestick Park for the conference title matchup. And, with under a minute remaining, the 49ers trailed, 27-21 — setting the stage for the most famous play in franchise history.

Clark's leaping catch in the back corner of the end zone on a broken play brought a deafening roar from the crowd, surpassed only when Ray Wersching's extra point gave them the winning margin.

After that, the challenge of winning their first Super Bowl should have seemed simple. Nope. The 49ers nearly blew a 20-0 lead to Cincinnati in Super Bowl XVI before securing the breakthrough-to-a-dynasty victory.

"It was the ability to build and maintain, something [Coach Walsh] really believed in," Cross says. "That every single person in the building has to know what the goal is and basically live it and breathe it."

THE NON-PERFECT ENDING

There are rare instances when a defeat is so uplifting that it leads to unexpected heights.

No team has captured that feeling as well as the 2007 Giants, who ended the regular season as a 10-6 wild card after a 38-35 home loss that clinched New England's unbeaten regular season. That setback, however, served as a catalyst for Big Blue.

"That (game) played a big role," Hall of Famer Michael Strahan says. "I am glad we played them. We might have been intimidated by all we read about them and heard about them. We just lined up man on man and did very well, and we realized if this is the best team and beaten everybody else down, we should have beaten them. We started to really believe."

So much so that they went to Tampa Bay, Dallas, and, finally, frigid Green Bay — remember head coach Tom Coughlin's beet-red face? — in the NFC playoffs and surprised each opponent.

Still, ending the Patriots' historic run?

Well, yeah. It took Strahan and company dominating with their pass rush, Eli Manning equaling Tom Brady, and, oh, right, the "Helmet Catch" by David Tyree.

"It was the most improbable win," Strahan says of the 17-14 triumph in Super Bowl XLII that spoiled New England's bid for a perfect season. "For that day, Tom made us all Hall of Famers."

THE RIGHT GUY

Brett Favre somewhat controversially left Green Bay in 2008, replaced by Aaron Rodgers. What could the quarterback who sat behind Favre for three seasons do?

Win it all.

It didn't look like 2010 would be that season. In mid-December, the Packers were a pedestrian 8-6 — but won their final two games to qualify for the playoffs. As the sixth seed, they merely won at Philadelphia, top-seeded Atlanta, and archrival Chicago. Buoyed by a strong defense, Rodgers proved his worth by throwing for six touchdowns during that run.

Then, he outdueled two-time Super Bowl champion Ben Roethlisberger in a 31-25 win in Super Bowl XLV.

"The journey has been special," Rodgers said after the game. "I'm not vindictive, but I'm blessed with a very good memory. You wait, you keep quiet, and you take advantage of an opportunity when it comes."

CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP IMAGES

Aaron Rodgers became the Packers' starting quarterback in 2008 — taking over for future Hall of Famer Brett Favre — and three years later delivered the franchise's fourth Super Bowl title by defeating the Steelers in Super Bowl XLV.

Barry Wilner covered the NFL for 37 years for The Associated Press and remains a Pro Football Hall of Fame selector. He relishes out-of-nowhere-champions stories as much as a down-to-the-wire Super Bowl finish.

DEFENSIVE DYNASTY?

WHILE THE 49ERS' OFFENSE WAS LAUDED FOR ITS FIREPOWER DURING THE TEAM'S CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS, THE DEFENSE PLAYED AN EQUAL, IF UNHERALDED, PART. BY JARRETT BELL

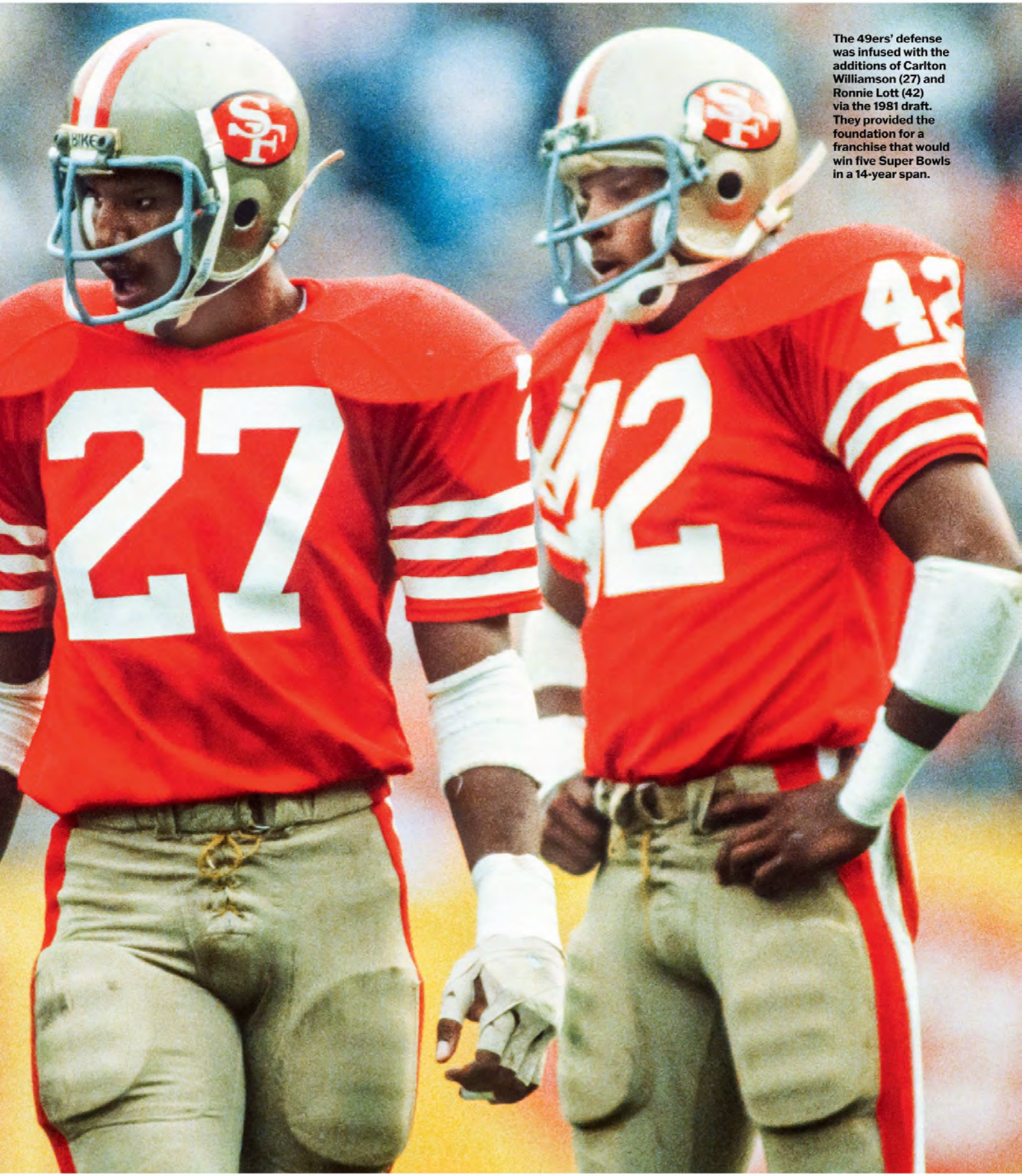
MORE THAN FOUR DECADES LATER, the final moments of the 1981 NFC Championship Game at Candlestick Park still seem rather surreal to Hall of Fame defensive back Ronnie Lott.

After all, incredible San Francisco 49ers history was made that day when Joe Montana capped a surgical 90-yard drive with a 6-yard pass to a leaping Dwight Clark in the back of the North end zone for the apparent final body blow to the dreaded Dallas Cowboys.

What an iconic feat, known simply as "The Catch." And it will never be forgotten by the 49ers Faithful. The play is crystallized on permanent display with bronze action-figure statues of Montana and Clark — spaced exactly 23 yards apart, the distance between them during the magical connection — outside Levi's Stadium.

Yet it's what happened shortly after "The Catch" that stirs Lott to this day. There were 47 seconds left on the clock when the Cowboys took over at their 25-yard line and sent Drew Pearson — whose clutch heroics included the "Hail Mary" catch six years earlier to defeat the Minnesota Vikings in the playoffs — on a deep in-route. As Pearson sailed behind Lott over the middle, Danny White drilled a spiral into a tight window between three defenders. Lott momentarily froze. Pearson snagged the pass at the midfield logo and cut up-field with a wide swath of turf and no defenders in his path to the end zone.

Then Lott's fellow rookie cornerback, Eric Wright, trailing the receiver, reached inside Pearson's jersey and yanked him to the turf. In today's game, Wright would have drawn a penalty for an illegal horse-collar tackle. Back then,



The 49ers' defense was infused with the additions of Carlton Williamson (27) and Ronnie Lott (42) via the 1981 draft. They provided the foundation for a franchise that would win five Super Bowls in a 14-year span.

PETER READ/AP IMAGES

49ers defensive backs Eric Wright (21) and Dwight Hicks (22) break up a pass during a 1981 contest vs. the Rams.

PETER READ/AP IMAGES

it was head's up football as Pearson was so close to going the distance. On the next play, Lawrence Pillars blasted White on an inside rush and forced a fumble that was recovered by Jim Stuckey. Ballgame. The 49ers' ticket to Super Bowl XVI was officially punched.

Just think: If Wright didn't make the tackle, the 49ers might have been victimized by last-minute heartbreak. Instead, they took another big step on their way to establishing a dynasty.

"That was an incredible tackle," Lott reflects. "And the other thing that was so funny, I was covering the middle of the field. I was supposed to be in position to make that play. I'm sitting there going, 'Whoa!' Next thing I know, there was Eric, pulling him down.

"I'm like, 'He saved me!' Not only did he save the game, he saved my butt!"

How fitting. In winning five Super Bowls over a 14-year span, the 49ers' defense was much more than a mere sidekick to the prolific offense that dominated the spotlight. It had its own knack for coming through in the big moment.

Sure, with innovative head coach Bill Walsh designing the strategy, Montana behind center as the NFL's most clutch quarterback, and star power that included Clark, Jerry Rice, Roger Craig, and John Taylor, the 49ers' West Coast offense deserved its enormous fanfare. And that high-powered production continued into the mid-'90s with a championship unit propelled by Steve Young and Ricky Watters.

But wait a minute. Doesn't defense win championships?

That axiom deserves its proper context when considering the 49ers' haul of Lombardi Trophies. In other words, give credit where credit is due. San Francisco didn't just win big because of its ability to score points.

The 49ers also won because a young secondary that started three rookies in 1981 — Lott, Wright, and Carlton Williamson — evolved to ultimately send all four starters, including Dwight Hicks, to the Pro Bowl. They won because a salty veteran linebacker, Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds, signed on in 1981 after his release from the Los Angeles Rams and helped a young unit establish a winning culture that carried over for years. They won because Fred Dean, obtained from the San Diego Chargers in a mid-season trade, provided an instant pass rush and an infectious measure of toughness. And Dean's impact would later be mimicked by another Hall of Famer, Charles Haley. They won because the defensive coaching staff, including George Seifert and Ray Rhodes, grew from within to keep continuity flowing over a decade. And they won because a rising defense had to contend with Walsh's prolific offense in every single practice session.

In 1981, the 49ers allowed the second-fewest points per game in the league (15.6) en route to winning the franchise's first Super Bowl. It was only the beginning. In 1984, when the 49ers became the first team to win 15 regular-season games, they led the NFL in scoring defense (14.2 ppg). During the 1989 campaign, the defense gave up just 26 points across three postseason contests to complement the league's highest-scoring offense as the 49ers capped Seifert's first season as head coach with a 55-10 rout of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV.

"History probably bears out that in winning the Super Bowls, we had really good defenses along the way," says Keena Turner, a versatile linebacker who won four rings during the '80s. "And it didn't matter that the defenses didn't get talked about. We really didn't care about that. The only thing that mattered was the ring."

They knew. Offense sells tickets and drives TV ratings. Defense, well...

"There were a lot of people who felt we were the backup music," Lott quips.

For all their championship mettle, maybe the 49ers' defense merely lacked a catchy moniker to raise its profile. During Pittsburgh's heyday in the '70s, it had "The Steel Curtain." The Cowboys relied on "The Doomsday Defense." Down the coast in Los Angeles, the Rams fielded "The Fearsome Foursome." And if Minnesota Vikings opponents knew better, they were to avoid the "Purple People Eaters."

Somehow, though, the "West Coast Defense" never caught on.

By the time the 49ers won the franchise's fifth crown in January 1995, mainstays such as Lott and Turner were long gone. But the tradition remained. Never mind the six new starters that reflected a dramatic makeover of a unit that was coordinated by Rhodes, who rose through the 49ers' coaching ranks.

The most notable addition? "Prime Time," of course. Suddenly, with Deion Sanders in the mix as a free-agent signee, the 49ers' defense had marquee value, even as Young fueled the NFL's highest-scoring offense as the league's MVP and Rice topped the receiving charts. Sanders played just one season in San Francisco — and it was arguably the most outstanding of his 14-year NFL career. He won NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors despite starting just 12 games (due to his Major League Baseball obligations), a testament to his big-play impact and the reluctance of opposing QBs to throw in his direction. Sanders' presence alone effectively took away roughly half of the field for significant stretches.

When teams did throw at him, they paid. Sanders intercepted six passes, three that he returned for touchdowns, and averaged a whopping 50.5 yards per return.

There was, however, another standard achieved by the 1994 unit, which included linebackers Ken Norton Jr., Rickey Jackson, and Gary Plummer, that the team's previous defenses could relate to. San Francisco ranked sixth in the NFL for scoring defense, yielding just 18.5 points per game.

"Ask me about a defense, and the one thing I want to know is, 'How many points did they give up?'" Turner says. "That's all."

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SCAN ME

Linebacker Ken Norton Jr. (51) spent the 1994-2000 seasons with the 49ers. He became the first player to win three consecutive Super Bowls, achieving the feat with the Cowboys (XXVII, XXVIII) and San Francisco (XXIX).

And, Turner maintains, it goes hand-in-hand with another essential principle.

"If you get a lead, you've got to keep it," he says.

That was surely reflected with Wright's big tackle near the end of the '81 NFC title game. Two weeks later, the unit further embodied that standard with a pivotal goal-line stand in the third quarter of Super Bowl XVI. San Francisco stymied the Cincinnati Bengals on four consecutive plays inside the 3-yard line, including a fourth-down stop at the 1 when massive fullback Pete Johnson was stuffed by a swarm of defenders that included Lott, Reynolds, Dan Bunz and Archie Reese, the nose tackle who began celebrating while flat on his back at the bottom of the pile.

"That moment was significant because it was a group of guys that were nobodies, who found a way to stop a guy that was 250 pounds that everybody said there was no way we could stop him," Lott recalls. "I will always be indebted to how Archie Reese responded."

Seifert was the 49ers' defensive backs coach during that 1981 season, assisted by Rhodes in developing the team's young secondary. He also sensed that something special brewed for a defense that was coordinated by Chuck Studley. The confidence of the unit not only grew with the key stops that helped win big games, but took shape, too, during intense practice sessions when they faced off against Montana & Co.

"Every day was a particular challenge," Seifert shared during an interview before his 2014 induction into the franchise's Hall of Fame. "I think it was a matter of survival of the fittest. You'd better be good at what you were doing."

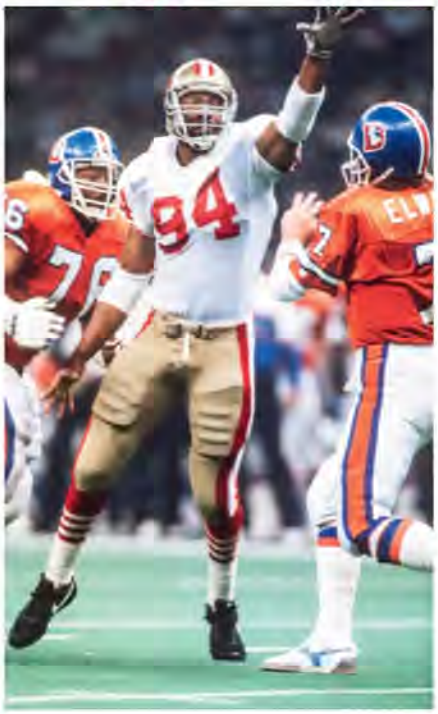
It's striking that the 49ers had four defensive coordinators during their dynasty years — and won the Super Bowl with each of them. Seifert replaced Studley in 1983, then Bill McPherson took over when Seifert was promoted in 1989. Rhodes, who served nine years as secondary coach, was lured back to San Francisco to take over for McPherson in 1994 after running Green Bay's defense for two years.

"The advantage was that all of those guys were homegrown," Turner notes of the brain power. "Everybody kind of grew up in the building. There was that continuity of understanding who our players were, what the defensive system was. And that stayed in place throughout with that group of coordinators."

That Seifert became the choice to replace Walsh was further confirmation of the defense's impact on the championship runs. When Walsh retired following the 1988 season, winning Super Bowl XXIII with a last-minute drive engineered by Montana, there was much debate over the idea of then-owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. entrusting the powerhouse team to a "defensive-minded" coach.

That talk was silenced as Seifert deftly managed the difficult transition from Montana to Young. His roots, though, were long established in developing a winning defense.

And as the 49ers continued to prove, defense wins championships.



ABOVE: In 1994, his lone season with San Francisco, Deion Sanders (21) had six interceptions — three that he returned for touchdowns — and was voted the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year. **LEFT:** Five-time Pro Bowl selection Charles Haley (94) provided the pass rush for the 49ers teams that won Super Bowls XXIII and XXIV.

Even in a game often defined by prolific offense, Lott is forever convinced of the axiom, just like it was decades ago when he was in his heyday with the 49ers. A fitting reminder was demonstrated during Super Bowl LIX, when the Philadelphia Eagles prevented the Kansas City Chiefs from becoming the first three-peat champs.

"Watching the Eagles last year, nobody could smell the way they smelled, playing defense," Lott says. "So, it does matter, the way you play defense. That thing that happened with us in '81 and the thing that happened last year, it's because you need to have people pursuing the game the way it should be played.

"How they dominated that line last year, I'm sitting here going, 'I know that feeling.' It was contagious then and it's contagious now and it will be contagious forever."

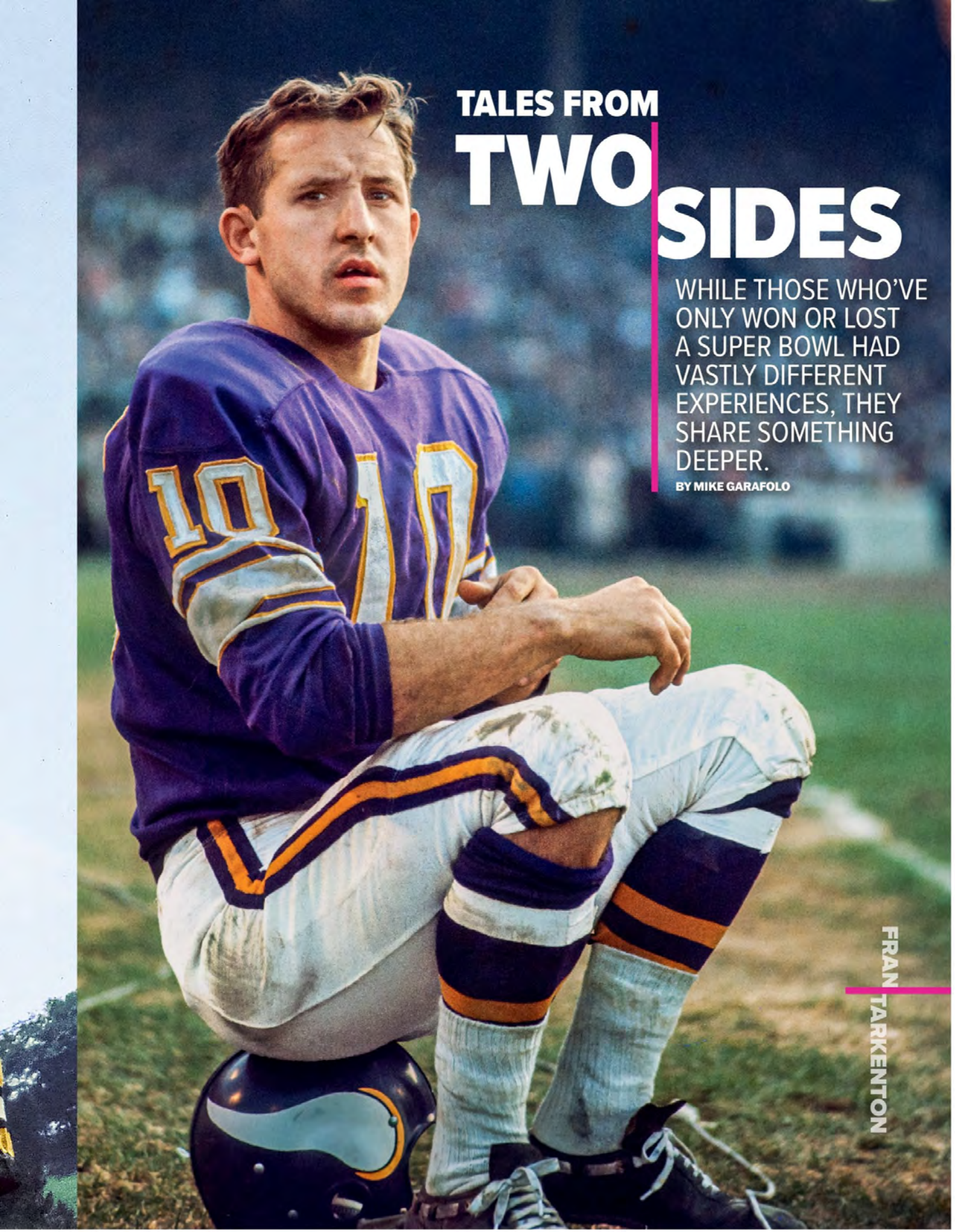
In other words, give the defense credit when credit is due.

Jarrett Bell, NFL columnist for USA TODAY *Sports, has covered the NFL for more than 40 years and was honored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame as the 2022 recipient of the Bill Nunn Award for career achievement. He previously covered the 49ers for the* Marin *(Calif.)* Independent Journal.

FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES (Norton, Haley); MONICA DAVIES/GETTY IMAGES (Sanders)

TERRY BRADSHAW

AP IMAGES



TALES FROM TWO SIDES

WHILE THOSE WHO'VE ONLY WON OR LOST A SUPER BOWL HAD VASTLY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, THEY SHARE SOMETHING DEEPER.

BY MIKE GARAFOLO

FRAN TARKENTON

FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

Kurt Warner played in three Super Bowls — one win and two losses in games decided by a combined 14 points, with game-winning plays that came with seconds to spare or as the clock struck :00.

Few know the fine line between one of the greatest feelings in all of sports and one of the worst when the confetti matches the opposing team's colors like Warner.

"It's what you play for," the Hall of Fame quarterback and Super Bowl XXXIV MVP says of winning an NFL title. "The beautiful thing is they can't take it away from you, to be the best in the world that season.

"You have three hours to prove that. When you don't, that's where the agony comes in."

There are a bunch of coaches and players who have been to multiple Super Bowls yet have never felt that agony. On the flip side, an unlucky bunch — namely the '90s Bills — suffered through several defeats without ever experiencing the euphoria of lifting the Lombardi Trophy.

With respect to Tom Brady and his record seven rings, this story celebrates those players and coaches who won the most Super Bowls without ever losing one ... and finds the consolation and perspective of those who experienced the opposite.

One would think going 4-0 in Super Bowls would be an incredible memory, filled with the joys of reaching the pinnacle of football achievement that many times.

Not for Terry Bradshaw, who is tied with Joe Montana for most Super Bowl wins without a loss among quarterbacks. Not even after his fourth championship in as many attempts.

In fact, if NBC had picked up a pilot he shot for a show called *The Stockers* in the spring of 1981, Bradshaw would've retired and gone into acting.

"The fourth Super Bowl was horrible. I had a massive migraine after that game from the focus, concentration, and stress," Bradshaw recalls. "It was too much for me. I had enough."

The reason for the headache was Bradshaw's "only fear": losing a Super Bowl. He claims he would have been devastated if he ever experienced it.

"A lot of it had to do with how rough the media was on me. If I won the Super Bowl and never lost it, then they would have to shut up," Bradshaw says. "They would have to get off my back about being dumb and all that."

There are countless terrific NFL players who never had the opportunity to play in the Super Bowl. Many would agree to play in one, even if they knew they would lose. Bradshaw wouldn't take that deal.

As for that near-retirement, Bradshaw says he should've gone through with it.

"I regret it. I wish a thousand times I'd gotten out, just walked," he says. "How cool would that have been?"

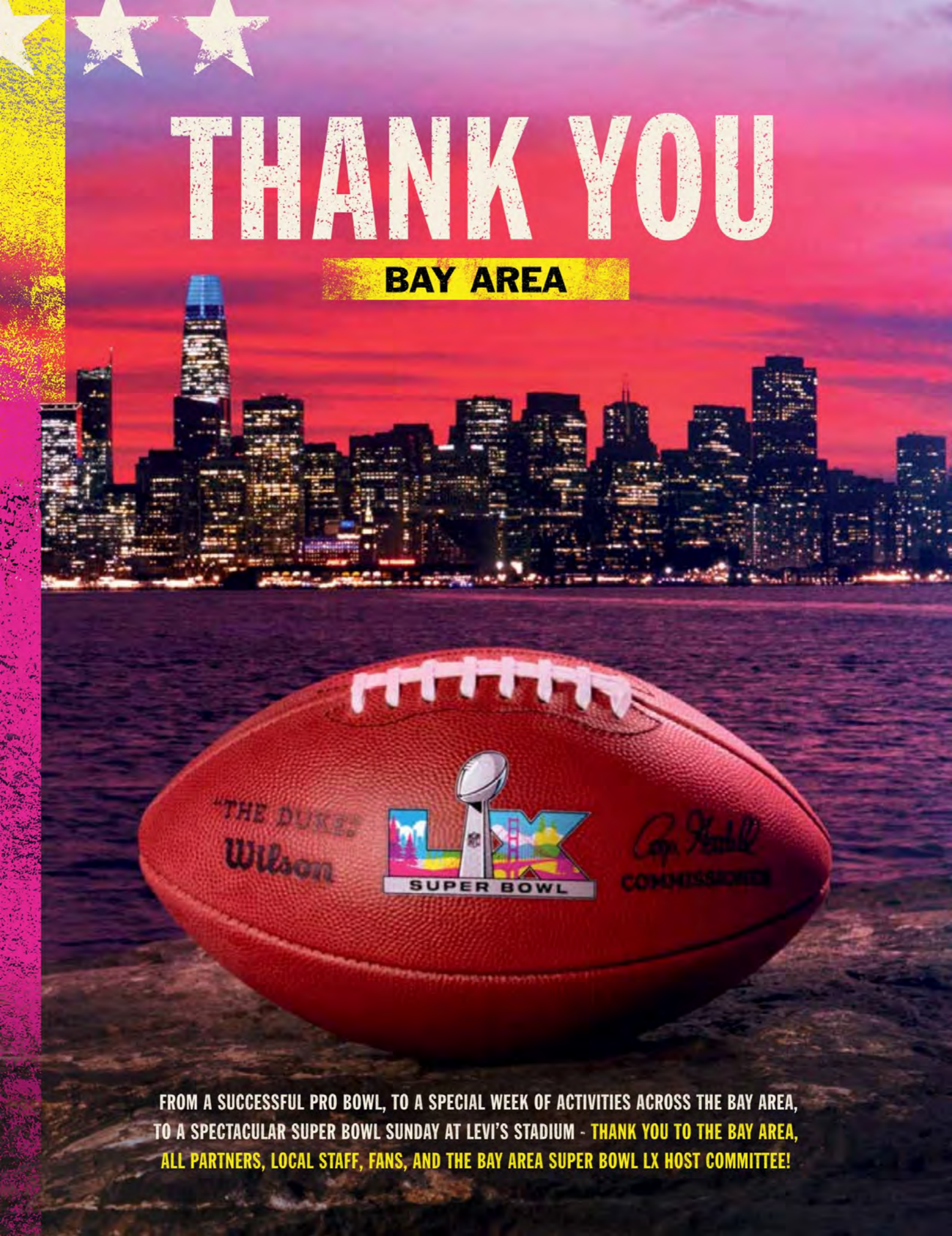
Speaking of cool, Montana — the man nicknamed "Joe Cool" — adds another layer of perfection by not throwing an interception in 122 passing attempts in four Super Bowls.

"I'm sure I'll get in trouble with today's generation for saying this — and I had this argument with Kyle Shanahan's son and nephew — but I'll still say the best quarterback of all time was Joe," insists 49ers CEO Jed York, who was a first-hand witness to the franchise's glory days as the nephew of owner Eddie DeBartolo. "I'm not taking anything away from Tom Brady, who is a great quarterback. It's just a different world now. Lawrence Taylor could kill Joe Montana. You see those hits and the way Joe came back and fought and still went 4-0 in Super Bowls."

York was in a suite with family as Montana led a 92-yard game-winning touchdown drive in the final

Terry Bradshaw went 4-0 in the Super Bowl and twice earned game MVP honors. He and Joe Montana share the record for most Super Bowl wins by a quarterback without a loss.

JAMES DRAKE/GETTY IMAGES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ABOVE: The 49ers' George Seifert coached in five Super Bowls — three as an assistant and two as head coach — and was victorious in each one. TOP RIGHT: Charles Haley played on five Super Bowl winners without suffering defeat.

minutes of Super Bowl XXIII to beat the Cincinnati Bengals. Defensive coordinator George Seifert was in the coaches' box, battling a flu that started hitting him mid-game and would knock him out of the postgame party.

Seifert had little doubt Montana would lead the go-ahead drive. He had only one concern.

"Joe, don't do this too fast," Seifert recalls thinking, "because we didn't want [the Bengals] to have too much time."

Cincinnati had 34 seconds — not that it mattered. Seifert's defense didn't even allow a first down, thanks in part to a sack by Charles Haley — his second of the game and the team's fifth of the night.

The next season, after head coach Bill Walsh had retired, Seifert took over on the 49ers' sidelines. As good as the 1988 team was (10-6 regular season), Seifert's first team was even better. They lost only two regular-season games — by a combined five points — and won their three playoff contests by a cumulative score of 126-26, including a 55-10 defeat of the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXIV.

Five years later, this time with Steve Young at quarterback, Seifert's Niners won another Super Bowl in similarly decisive fashion: 49-26 over the San Diego Chargers.

Three Super Bowls as an assistant for Seifert, two as a head coach. All of them victories. The best unblemished mark by any individual who won at least one Super Bowl as a head coach.

"I like to think I was part of the development (of the dynasty)," Seifert said recently. "Bill allowed the assistant coaches to have a significant amount of input, so it was a natural growth that I would go from assistant to head coach and not have to deviate too much from how we did things."

As Seifert stacked Super Bowl wins, his confidence before each kickoff grew, especially when he looked at the Chargers' sideline as fireworks were exploding before kickoff at Super Bowl XXIX.

"This was their first time, and they were kind of slack-jawed and in awe of what was taking place," Seifert says. "That gave me a certain sense of confidence."

Bradshaw recalls legendary Steelers head coach Chuck Noll instilling confidence in Pittsburgh's 1974 team when he told them they were going to "kick the Raiders' [butts]" in the AFC Championship Game.

"I was like, 'Wow, we never heard him say that before!'" Bradshaw recalls. "And we went out there and played great football. Awesome coach."

Arguably, the best when it comes to Super Bowls — a perfect 4-0, the best unblemished mark as a head coach.

"Your critics are always right," Noll once said, adding a kicker Bradshaw could appreciate: "The only way you shut them up is by winning."

Haley did more of that than any player without losing a Super Bowl. He posted a perfect 5-0 mark with back-to-back wins with the 49ers in 1988-89 and then three in four years with the Dallas Cowboys from 1992-95.

Haley, who notched a total of 4.5 sacks in his five Super Bowls, said he didn't even realize he held that distinction until he was contacted for this story.

"It was so much sacrifice, so much pain I had to go through to get there," he says, adding, "Failure is not

RON HEFLIN/AP IMAGES (Seifert); GREG TROTT/AP IMAGES (Haley)

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an option. I don't run out on the field; I walk because I'm not running out to whup one person's butt. I'm running out to whup all their butts."

In a hypothetical scenario where all five teams could play one another, which of the five teams would remain undefeated?

"The '92 team," Haley says of the Cowboys that beat the Bills, 52-17, in Super Bowl XXVII. "And I hate to go against Joe Montana, but we were hitting on all cylinders from the beginning, and we just kept getting better and better. If you got hurt, you didn't get your job back. You had an 'A' player behind you. I've never seen anything like that."

That talent overwhelmed the Bills in Super Bowls XXVII and XXVIII, the third and fourth straight Super Bowl losses for Buffalo. The final three were blowouts. The first was an agonizing 20-19 loss to the Giants in Super Bowl XXV on Scott Norwood's 47-yard field-goal attempt in the waning seconds of the game that sailed wide right.

In the decades since, the core members of those Bills teams have healed from those disappointing results, have grown even closer with one another and focus more on the pride of reaching four straight Super Bowls.

"It's the ultimate out-of-perspective game. A gazillion people who only know you from that game," says Steve Tasker, a special-teams master and a leader for the Bills from 1986-97. "We're sitting here in our 60s and that was a long time ago. I think we're doing pretty well."

Tasker knows because there's a group text thread with many of his Buffalo teammates — including linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who added another Super Bowl defeat with the Falcons to go 0-5 in total — that keeps them connected. It gets lively when the current Bills are playing, as they all are rooting for Josh Allen & Co. to one day bring the Lombardi Trophy to Western New York.

"There's no animosity or bitterness. We're absolute fans of these guys," Tasker says. "We're rooting for the team to win because of the fans. We'd like to have Buffalo win one."

Bud Grant's Vikings can relate to the perspective the Bills gained over the years. Minnesota lost four Super Bowls in eight seasons, beginning in Super Bowl IV against the Kansas City Chiefs and ending with a 32-14 defeat to the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XI.

"Football is entertainment; it's not life or death," the late Grant told *Sports Illustrated* in 2016. "If winning or losing is going to define your life, you're on a tough road."

Fran Tarkenton, the quarterback for the final three of Minnesota's Super Bowl losses, has a similarly balanced view on those defeats. In fact, he's turned them into talking points for his book *The Power of Failure*, as well as his approach to business for his company Tarkenton Private Financial.

"I've without a doubt learned more from my failures than from my successes. That's why it's one of my maxims," Tarkenton wrote in a caption for a video posted on his LinkedIn page.

FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES

"I'VE WITHOUT A DOUBT LEARNED MORE FROM MY FAILURES THAN FROM MY SUCCESSES. THAT'S WHY IT'S ONE OF MY MAXIMS." —FRAN TARKENTON

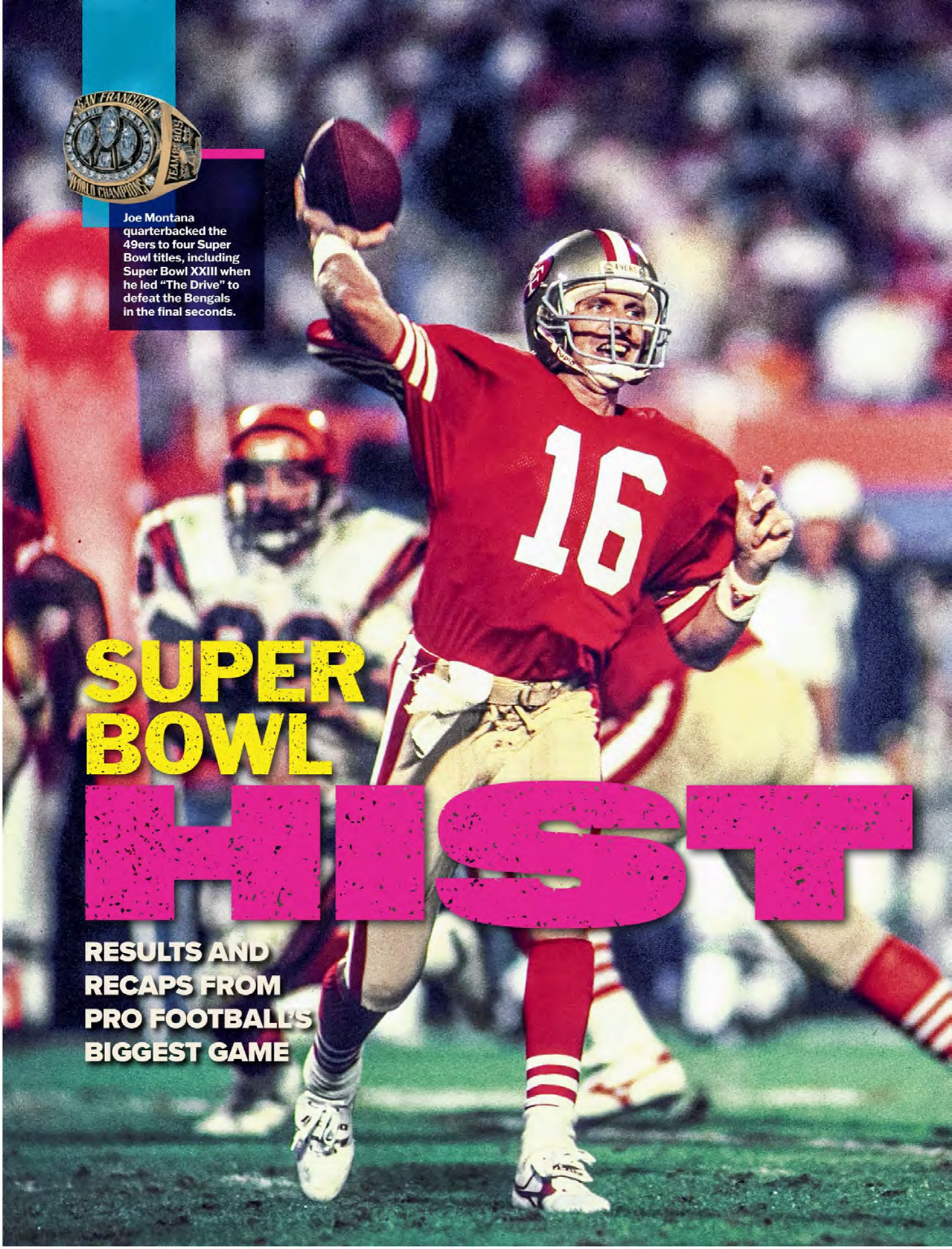
In that video, Tarkenton says the Vikings not practicing during the bye week before those Super Bowls was a big reason they lost.

"It was wrong. That lesson has never left me," he says. "You've got to always prepare for whatever you're going to do to have a chance to win."

Even Jim Kelly, who lost one more Super Bowl than Tarkenton, understands defeats on the field can lead to greater things. In ESPN's *30 for 30* documentary "The Four Falls of Buffalo," Kelly claims his career prepared him to handle adversity later in life. His son, Hunter, was born with Krabbe disease and passed away at age 8. Kelly was diagnosed with cancer in his jaw in 2013, with a recurrence in 2018. He is currently cancer-free, which is a bigger victory than any he's ever had on a football field.

"You always wonder what it would've been like," he said in the ESPN documentary. "But you know what, I have nothing to complain about. I'm a very blessed man."

Mike Garafolo is a reporter and host for NFL Network who has covered the NFL for various outlets since 2000. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, Jessica, and daughters Carmen and Vivian.



Joe Montana quarterbacked the 49ers to four Super Bowl titles, including Super Bowl XXIII when he led "The Drive" to defeat the Bengals in the final seconds.

SUPER BOWL HIST

RESULTS AND RECAPS FROM PRO FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST GAME

JOHN BIEVER/GETTY IMAGES

SUPER BOWL I

January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Attendance: **61,946**

Kansas City Chiefs	10
Green Bay Packers	**35**

MVP: **Bart Starr** (QB), **Packers**
16 of 23 passing, 250 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL II

January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: **75,546**

Green Bay Packers	**33**
Oakland Raiders	14

MVP: **Bart Starr** (QB), **Packers**
13 of 24 passing, 202 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL III

January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: **75,389**

New York Jets	**16**
Baltimore Colts	7

MVP: **Joe Namath** (QB), **Jets**
17 of 28 passing, 206 yards

SUPER BOWL IV

January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: **80,562**

Minnesota Vikings	7
Kansas City Chiefs	**23**

MVP: **Len Dawson** (QB), **Chiefs**
12 of 17 passing, 142 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL V
January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: **79,204**

Baltimore Colts	**16**
Dallas Cowboys	13

MVP: **Chuck Howley** (LB), **Cowboys**
2 interceptions, 3 tackles

SUPER BOWL VI
January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: **81,023**

Dallas Cowboys	**24**
Miami Dolphins	3

MVP: **Roger Staubach** (QB), **Cowboys**
12 of 19 passing, 119 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL VII
January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Attendance: **90,182**

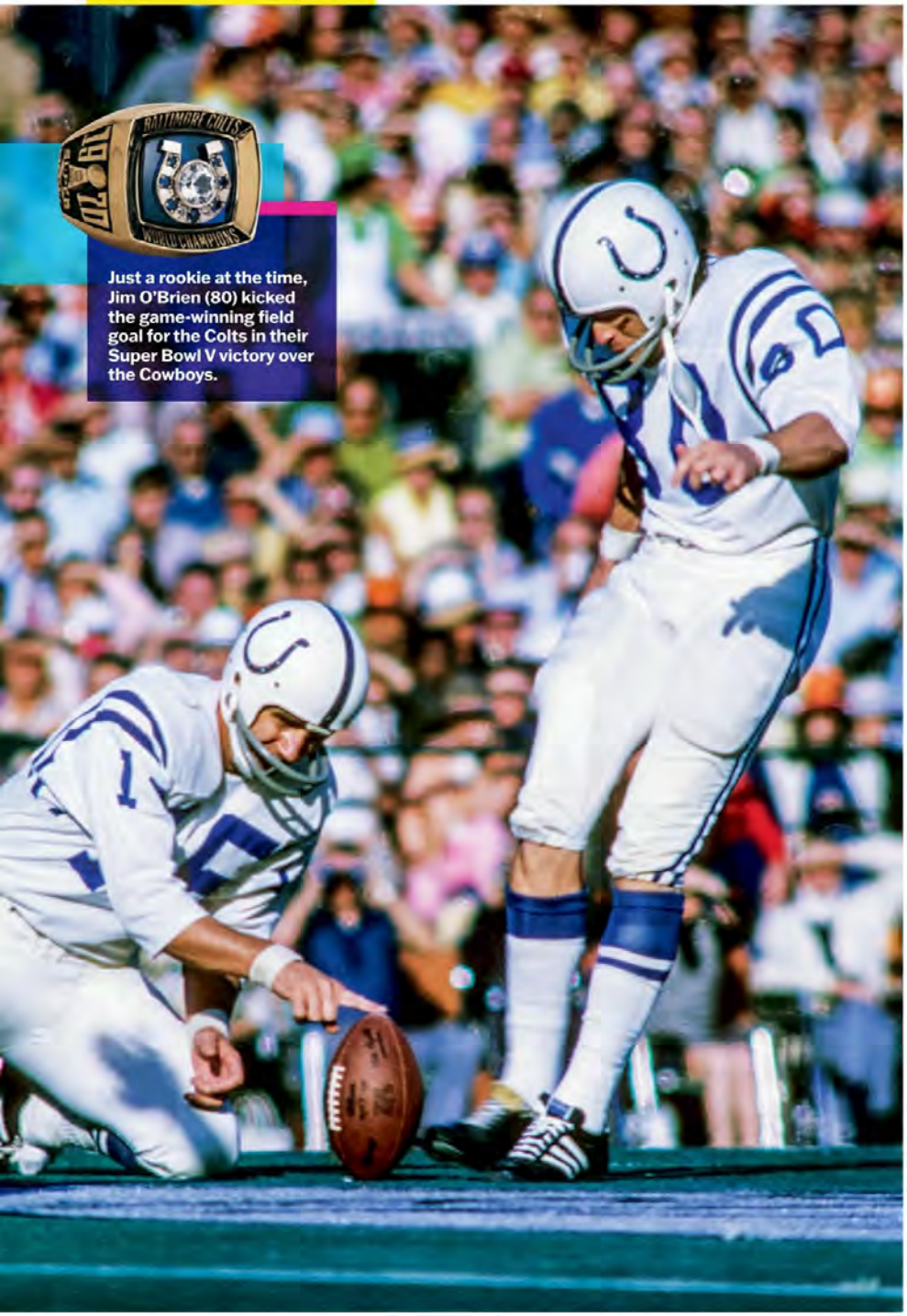
Miami Dolphins	**14**
Washington Redskins	7

MVP: **Jake Scott** (S), **Dolphins**
2 interceptions

SUPER BOWL VIII
January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston
Attendance: **71,882**

Minnesota Vikings	7
Miami Dolphins	**24**

MVP: **Larry Csonka** (RB), **Dolphins**
33 carries, 145 yards, 2 TDs



Just a rookie at the time, Jim O'Brien (80) kicked the game-winning field goal for the Colts in their Super Bowl V victory over the Cowboys.

ICON SPORTSWIRE/AP IMAGES

COLTS HAVE FINISHING KICK

Above all else, there is one undeniable truth about Super Bowl V: It was the springboard to the modern NFL.

The first Super Bowl following the AFL-NFL merger and the first one played on artificial turf, it also marked the first time the newly named Lombardi Trophy was presented to the victor. The game featured the Super Bowl's first fourth-quarter comeback and marked the latest the winning points were scored — rookie Jim O'Brien kicked a 32-yard field goal with five seconds remaining to give the Colts the 16-13 victory — until the Patriots' dramatic triumph in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Perhaps most unusual, it still stands as the only Super Bowl to have a member of the losing team selected the game's MVP. That honor went to Cowboys linebacker Chuck Howley, who had a pair of interceptions.

Overall, the game featured 11 turnovers with, fittingly, two of them providing the opening for the Colts' rally. Safety Rick Volk's interception set up Tom Nowatzke's 2-yard touchdown run that knotted the game midway through the fourth quarter, and linebacker Mike Curtis picked off a tipped pass with under two minutes to go that he returned to the Dallas 28-yard line. After a pair of Norm Bulaich runs, O'Brien — who had earlier missed an extra-point — hit the game-winner.

"The [missed PAT] was a big lesson for me, and I wasn't nearly as nervous for that last one," O'Brien recalled many years later. "My thoughts on the PAT, for whatever reason, were all over the board. But I was, as they say, in the zone for that last one.

"I don't even remember seeing Earl (Morrall) hold the ball. I don't remember seeing the ground," he said. "I don't even remember hearing any noise. Everything just went quiet."

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The NFL continues to salute this important milestone with special commemorative moments in Super Bowl LX. The story of the NFL reflects the story of America, and the spirit of resilience, innovation and teamwork.

SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL IX

January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Attendance: **80,997**

Pittsburgh Steelers	**16**
Minnesota Vikings	6

MVP: **Franco Harris** (RB), **Steelers**
34 carries, 158 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL X

January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: **80,187**

Dallas Cowboys	17
Pittsburgh Steelers	**21**

MVP: **Lynn Swann** (WR), **Steelers**
4 receptions, 161 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XI

January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Attendance: **103,438**

Oakland Raiders	**32**
Minnesota Vikings	14

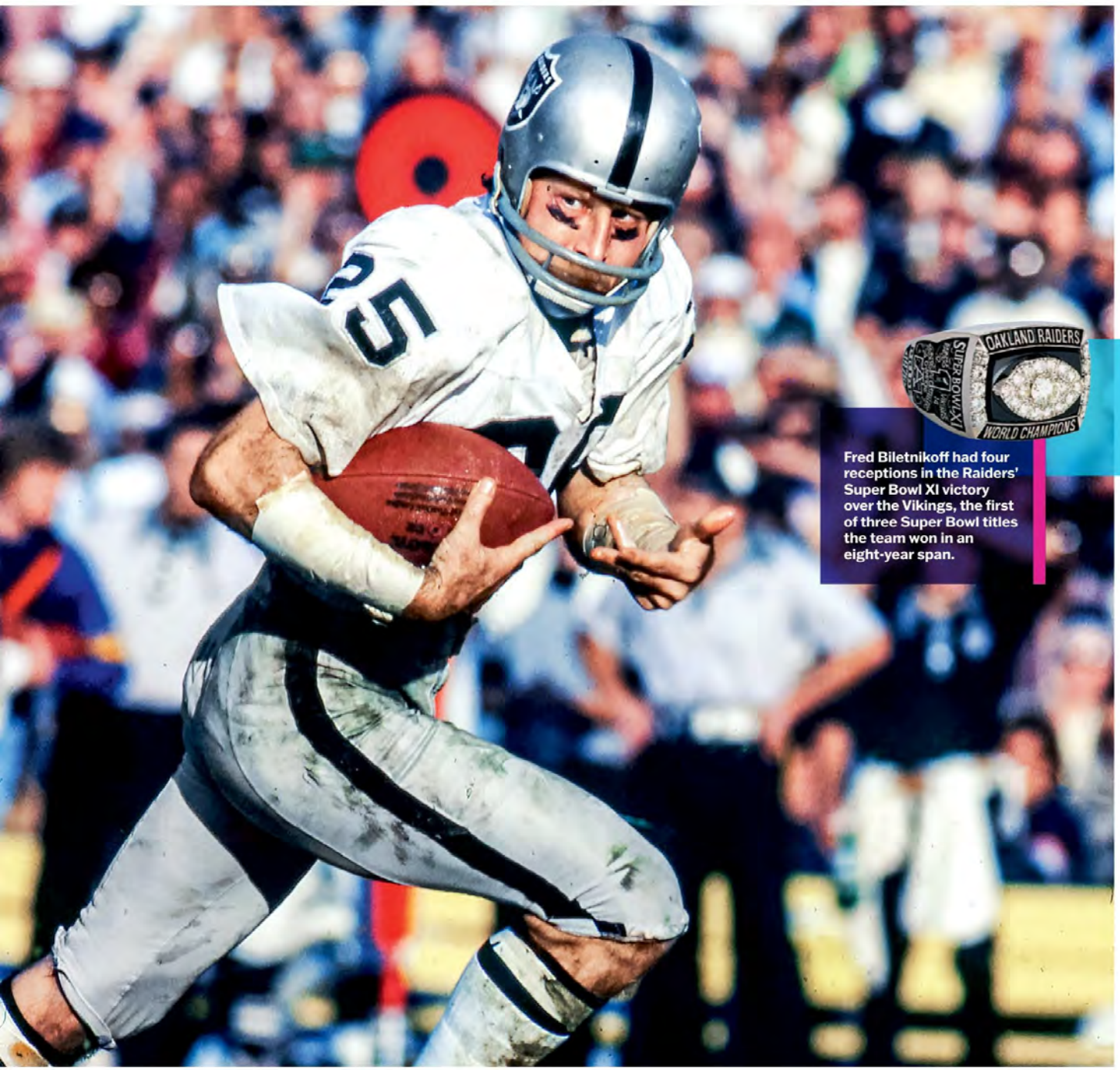
MVP: **Fred Biletnikoff** (WR), **Raiders**
4 receptions, 79 yards

SUPER BOWL XII

January 15, 1978
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **75,583**

Dallas Cowboys	**27**
Denver Broncos	10

MVPs: **Randy White** (DT) and **Harvey Martin** (DE), **Cowboys**
Leaders of a defense that had 4 sacks and allowed just 156 total yards



Fred Biletnikoff had four receptions in the Raiders' Super Bowl XI victory over the Vikings, the first of three Super Bowl titles the team won in an eight-year span.

TONY TOMSIC/AP IMAGES

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL XIII
January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami
Attendance: **79,484**

Pittsburgh Steelers	**35**
Dallas Cowboys	31

MVP: **Terry Bradshaw** (QB), **Steelers**
17 of 30 passing, 318 yards, 4 TDs

SUPER BOWL XIV
January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Attendance: **103,985**

Los Angeles Rams	19
Pittsburgh Steelers	**31**

MVP: **Terry Bradshaw** (QB), **Steelers**
14 of 21 passing, 309 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL XV
January 25, 1981
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **76,135**

Oakland Raiders	**27**
Philadelphia Eagles	10

MVP: **Jim Plunkett** (QB), **Raiders**
13 of 21 passing, 261 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XVI
January 24, 1982
Silverdome, Pontiac
Attendance: **81,270**

San Francisco 49ers	**26**
Cincinnati Bengals	21

MVP: **Joe Montana** (QB), **49ers**
14 of 22 passing, 157 yards, 1 TD

Franco Harris (32) breaks loose for a 22-yard touchdown run in the Steelers' Super Bowl XIII win over Dallas — the first rematch in Super Bowl history.

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VIOLENCE HURTS US ALL

HAVI Executive Director Fatimah Loren Dreier and HAVI Training Manager David Ross, pictured in Baltimore, where homicides have declined by 50% since 2023. For 10 years, David worked as frontline staff for the Violence Prevention Program, UMaryland Medical Center, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. The HAVI honors frontline violence prevention professionals and healthcare partners.

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SUPER BOWL XVII

January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Attendance: **103,667**

Miami Dolphins	17
Washington Redskins	27

MVP: **John Riggins** (RB), **Redskins**
38 carries, 166 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XVIII

January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium, Tampa
Attendance: **72,920**

Washington Redskins	9
Los Angeles Raiders	38

MVP: **Marcus Allen** (RB), **Raiders**
20 carries, 191 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL XIX

January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, Stanford
Attendance: **84,059**

Miami Dolphins	16
San Francisco 49ers	38

MVP: **Joe Montana** (QB), **49ers**
24 of 35 passing, 331 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XX

January 26, 1986
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **73,818**

Chicago Bears	46
New England Patriots	10

MVP: **Richard Dent** (DE), **Bears**
1.5 sacks, part of defense that allowed 7 rushing yards

John Riggins set a Super Bowl record with 38 rushing attempts in Super Bowl XVII, none bigger than his 43-yard TD run that propelled Washington to victory.

WASHINGTON'S END RUN

In an instant, a bold gamble became the biggest play in Washington football history. John Riggins, capping an epic postseason, burst free for a stunning 43-yard TD run that gave his team the lead in Super Bowl XVII and keyed the franchise's first NFL title since 1942.

Trailing 17-13 and facing a fourth-and-1 early in the fourth quarter, Washington head coach Joe Gibbs could do the obvious and punt the ball, relying on his revved-up defense to keep Miami pinned deep in its own territory.

Instead, he kept the offense on the field and called 70-Chip, a running play for Riggins around the left side. Tackle Joe Jacoby, guard Russ Grimm, and H-back Otis Wonsley cleared the way, and Riggins shrugged off the only Dolphins defender in his way, Don McNeal, before sprinting for the go-ahead touchdown.

"I had my heart in my throat because it was fourth down. I mean, we decided to go for it," Gibbs said. "If we missed that, we would have given them great field position."

Often overlooked, but equally important, was what followed. After the Washington defense forced a punt, Riggins ran the ball eight times on his team's next possession, a time-consuming march that ended with Joe Theismann's 6-yard scoring pass to Charlie Brown to put the game out of reach.

Washington rushed for a Super Bowl-record 276 yards, and Riggins, who totaled 181 yards (166 rushing, 15 receiving), outgained the Dolphins (176) all by himself. The workhorse topped 100 rushing yards in all four of the team's playoff wins — finishing with 136 carries for 610 yards and four touchdowns overall.

Miami had owned a 17-10 halftime lead, thanks in part to Jimmy Cefalo's 76-yard TD catch and Fulton Walker's 98-yard kickoff-return touchdown, but Washington's defense clamped down over the final two quarters, not allowing a completed pass and limiting the Dolphins' offense to 34 total yards.

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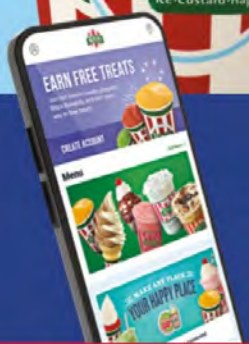

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL XXI

January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Attendance: **101,063**

Denver Broncos	20
New York Giants	39

MVP: **Phil Simms** (QB), **Giants**
22 of 25 passing, 268 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXII

January 31, 1988
Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego
Attendance: **73,302**

Washington Redskins	42
Denver Broncos	10

MVP: **Doug Williams** (QB), **Redskins**
18 of 29 passing, 340 yards, 4 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXIII

January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami
Attendance: **75,129**

Cincinnati Bengals	16
San Francisco 49ers	20

MVP: **Jerry Rice** (WR), **49ers**
11 receptions, 215 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XXIV

January 28, 1990
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **72,919**

San Francisco 49ers	55
Denver Broncos	10

MVP: **Joe Montana** (QB), **49ers**
22 of 29 passing, 297 yards, 5 TDs

Jerry Rice heads to the end zone with one of his three TD receptions in the 49ers' 55-10 victory over Denver in Super Bowl XXIV — a game that saw San Francisco set a Super Bowl record for points that still stands.

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SUPER BOWL XXV
January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium, Tampa
Attendance: **73,813**

Buffalo Bills	19
New York Giants	20

MVP: **Ottis Anderson** (RB), **Giants**
102 rushing yards, 1 TD;
5 receptions

SUPER BOWL XXVI
January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
Attendance: **63,130**

Washington Redskins	37
Buffalo Bills	24

MVP: **Mark Rypien** (QB), **Redskins**
18 of 33 passing, 292 yards,
2 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXVII
January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Attendance: **98,374**

Buffalo Bills	17
Dallas Cowboys	52

MVP: **Troy Aikman** (QB), **Cowboys**
22 of 30 passing, 273 yards,
4 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXVIII
January 30, 1994
Georgia Dome, Atlanta
Attendance: **72,817**

Dallas Cowboys	30
Buffalo Bills	13

MVP: **Emmitt Smith** (RB), **Cowboys**
30 carries, 132 yards, 2 TDs

The Giants' Everson Walls (28) breaks up a pass intended for James Lofton during his team's 20-19 win over the Bills in Super Bowl XXV. The contest remains the only Super Bowl to be decided by one point.

GIANTS STICK TO THE PLAN

From its first moments to its final kick, Super Bowl XXV delivered storylines that still resonate throughout the sport.

The game, played shortly after the launch of Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf, had unprecedented security precautions, and prior to kickoff, Whitney Houston delivered a mesmerizing performance of the national anthem that later became a best-selling single. On the field, it was a matchup of contrasts between the NFL's top-scoring team (Buffalo) and the one that allowed the fewest points (N.Y. Giants). And it all came down to the last seconds.

The Giants ultimately prevailed by brilliantly executing a game plan that neutralized the high-powered Bills offense. They put together four drives of 10-plus plays to amass a 40:33-to-19:27 advantage in time of possession, while the team's defensive approach steered Buffalo toward the ground game — and away from QB Jim Kelly's powerful arm.

Buffalo staked an early 12-3 lead, but Stephen Baker's 14-yard TD reception and Ottis Anderson's 1-yard scoring run put New York ahead. Anderson, who rushed for 102 yards, would become the first recipient of the Pete Rozelle Trophy as the game's MVP.

After a 31-yard Thurman Thomas TD run moved the Bills back in front, 19-17, the Giants went to work, marching 14 plays and scoring what proved to be the game-winning points on Matt Bahr's 21-yard field goal. Still, the Bills had a final chance, reaching the Giants 29-yard line with eight seconds to go, but Scott Norwood misfired on a 47-yard field goal, ending what remains the only Super Bowl decided by a single point.

"We made them work for everything they got," said Giants linebacker Carl Banks. "The thing is we played as a team: T-E-A-M. I can't emphasize that enough."

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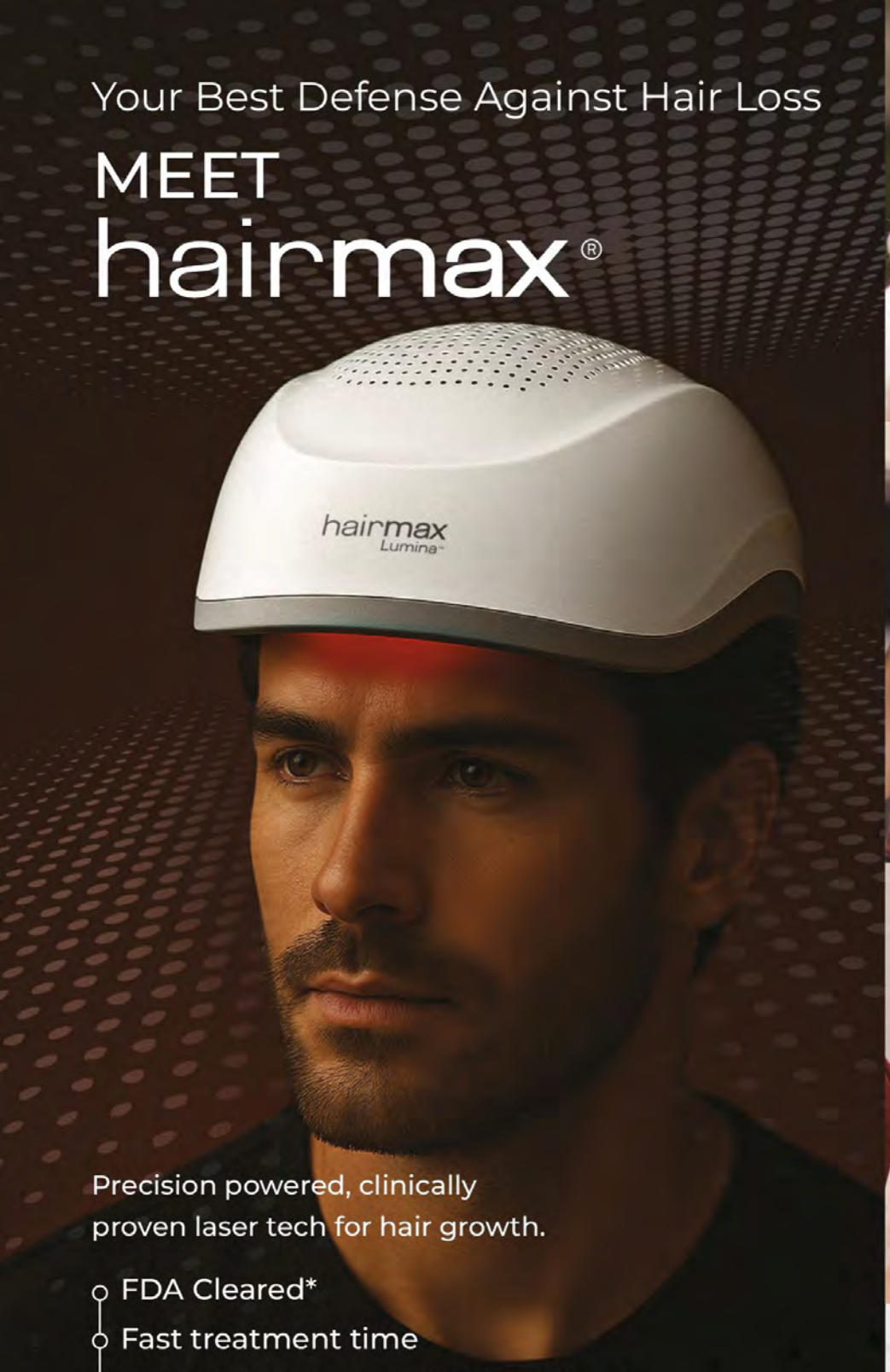

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SUPER BOWL XXIX

January 29, 1995
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami
Attendance: **74,107**

San Diego Chargers	26
San Francisco 49ers	49

MVP: **Steve Young** (QB), **49ers**
24 of 36 passing, 325 yards, 6 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXX

January 28, 1996
Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe
Attendance: **76,347**

Dallas Cowboys	27
Pittsburgh Steelers	17

MVP: **Larry Brown** (CB), **Cowboys**
2 interceptions, both leading to Cowboys touchdowns

SUPER BOWL XXXI

January 26, 1997
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **72,301**

New England Patriots	21
Green Bay Packers	35

MVP: **Desmond Howard** (KR-PR), **Packers** 244 return yards, 99-yard kickoff return for TD

SUPER BOWL XXXII

January 25, 1998
Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego
Attendance: **68,912**

Green Bay Packers	24
Denver Broncos	31

MVP: **Terrell Davis** (RB), **Broncos**
30 carries, 157 yards, 3 TDs

Dallas finally got the better of the Steelers in the third Super Bowl meeting between the teams — Super Bowl XXX — aided by five catches from Michael Irvin (88).

KEVIN TERRELL/AP IMAGES

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SUPER BOWL XXXIII
January 31, 1999
Pro Player Stadium, Miami
Attendance: **74,803**

Denver Broncos	**34**
Atlanta Falcons	19

MVP: John Elway (QB), **Broncos**
18 of 29 passing, 336 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XXXIV
January 30, 2000
Georgia Dome, Atlanta
Attendance: **72,625**

St. Louis Rams	**23**
Tennessee Titans	16

MVP: Kurt Warner (QB), **Rams**
24 of 45 passing, 414 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXXV
January 28, 2001
Raymond James Stadium, Tampa
Attendance: **71,921**

Baltimore Ravens	**34**
New York Giants	7

MVP: Ray Lewis (LB), **Ravens**
Star of a defense that allowed just 152 total yards

SUPER BOWL XXXVI
February 3, 2002
Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **72,922**

St. Louis Rams	17
New England Patriots	**20**

MVP: Tom Brady (QB), **Patriots**
16 of 27 passing, 145 yards, 1 TD

New England seized the early momentum in Super Bowl XXXVI when Ty Law (24) intercepted a pass and brought it back 47 yards for a touchdown.

TONY GUTIERREZ/AP IMAGES

'WE'RE ALL PATRIOTS TODAY'

For those more familiar with the Patriots' two decades of dominance earlier this century, it's easy to overlook how unexpected their Super Bowl XXXVI victory truly was.

Prior to that game, New England had never won the Super Bowl. The team was coming off a 5-11 campaign, and its quarterback — only playing because of an injury to starter Drew Bledsoe — was an unheralded former sixth-round pick named Tom Brady. And the opposition was the St. Louis Rams, whose "Greatest Show on Turf" offense was revolutionizing the NFL.

But by night's end, the Patriots had shocked the football world and set in motion a run that would produce six Super Bowl titles in an 18-year span. The game, delayed a week because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, also carried an emotional weight that was on full display during U2's halftime show, when the names of all 2,977 victims scrolled behind the band.

Defense set the tone for the Patriots, who, instead of blitzing, often dropped seven or eight players into coverage to make QB Kurt Warner hold the ball and throw off the Rams' rhythm. That helped produce two interceptions, including one by Ty Law that he returned 47 yards for the game's first touchdown.

A fourth-quarter Rams rally tied the game, 17-17, and only 1:30 remained in regulation when New England took possession at its own 17-yard line with no timeouts. Still, Patriots coach Bill Belichick entrusted his young quarterback to go for the win. Brady completed 5 of 8 passes — two of the incompletions were on spikes to stop the clock — and marched his team into position for Adam Vinatieri's 48-yard field goal. It marked the first Super Bowl to have the winning points scored as time expired.

"With a quarterback like Tom Brady, going for the win is not that dangerous," Belichick said. "He's not going to make a mistake."

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SUPER BOWL XXXVII
January 26, 2003
Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego
Attendance: **67,603**

Oakland Raiders	21
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	48

MVP: **Dexter Jackson** (S), **Buccaneers**
2 of team's 5 interceptions

SUPER BOWL XXXVIII
February 1, 2004
Reliant Stadium, Houston
Attendance: **71,525**

Carolina Panthers	29
New England Patriots	32

MVP: **Tom Brady** (QB), **Patriots**
32 of 48 passing, 354 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XXXIX
February 6, 2005
Alltel Stadium, Jacksonville
Attendance: **78,125**

New England Patriots	24
Philadelphia Eagles	21

MVP: **Deion Branch** (WR), **Patriots**
11 receptions, 133 yards

SUPER BOWL XL
February 5, 2006
Ford Field, Detroit
Attendance: **68,206**

Seattle Seahawks	10
Pittsburgh Steelers	21

MVP: **Hines Ward** (WR), **Steelers**
5 receptions, 123 yards, 1 TD

Hines Ward (86) crosses the goal line with one of the most iconic touchdowns in Super Bowl history — on a 43-yard pass from wide receiver Antwaan Randle El in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XL. The TD proved pivotal as the Steelers defeated Seattle to capture their fifth Super Bowl championship.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP IMAGES

THUMBS UP TO ANOTHER STEELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Antwaan Randle El put an end to Pittsburgh's 26-year wait for a fifth Super Bowl title, throwing a 43-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter that all but sealed Super Bowl XL vs. Seattle.

The game was tightly contested most of the way, with the Steelers getting into the end zone on Ben Roethlisberger's 1-yard QB sneak and a 75-yard dart by Willie Parker — the longest rushing TD in Super Bowl history — on the second play after halftime. The Seahawks countered with a Josh Brown field goal and Matt Hasselbeck's 16-yard TD pass to Jerramy Stephens that closed the gap to 14-10.

A pair of fourth-quarter plays shaped the outcome. With Seattle on the move for a potential go-ahead score, cornerback Ike Taylor intercepted a pass near the goal line that he returned to the Steelers 39-yard line. Four plays later, Randle El took a reverse handoff from Parker and sprinted to the right before stopping and throwing a perfect strike to Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward for a touchdown with 9:04 remaining. It was the first TD pass thrown by a wide receiver in Super Bowl history. Pittsburgh then kept the lead intact by stopping the Seahawks on downs on their final two possessions.

The Steelers' title run was noteworthy for several reasons. They needed to win their final four regular-season games just to reach the postseason, and all four of their playoff wins were earned away from Heinz Field. Roethlisberger (23 years, 340 days) became the youngest starting quarterback to win a Super Bowl, while future Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis, playing in front of a hometown crowd, rushed for 43 yards in what would be his final game.

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL XLI

February 4, 2007
Dolphin Stadium, Miami Gardens
Attendance: **74,512**

Indianapolis Colts	**29**
Chicago Bears	17

MVP: **Peyton Manning** (QB), **Colts**
25 of 38 passing, 247 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XLII

February 3, 2008
University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale
Attendance: **71,101**

New York Giants	**17**
New England Patriots	14

MVP: **Eli Manning** (QB), **Giants**
19 of 34 passing, 255 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL XLIII

February 1, 2009
Raymond James Stadium, Tampa
Attendance: **70,774**

Pittsburgh Steelers	**27**
Arizona Cardinals	23

MVP: **Santonio Holmes** (WR), **Steelers**
9 receptions, 131 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XLIV

February 7, 2010
Sun Life Stadium, Miami Gardens
Attendance: **74,059**

New Orleans Saints	**31**
Indianapolis Colts	17

MVP: **Drew Brees** (QB), **Saints**
32 of 39 passing, 288 yards, 2 TDs

Peyton Manning (18) added to his legacy by leading the Colts to their first Super Bowl title since moving to Indianapolis, a 29-17 win over the Bears in Super Bowl XLI. His 247 passing yards included a 53-yard touchdown strike to Reggie Wayne.

SCOTT BOEHM/AP IMAGES

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL XLV

February 6, 2011
Cowboys Stadium, Arlington
Attendance: **91,060**

Pittsburgh Steelers	25
Green Bay Packers	31

MVP: **Aaron Rodgers** (QB), **Packers**
24 of 39 passing, 304 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XLVI

February 5, 2012
Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis
Attendance: **68,658**

New York Giants	21
New England Patriots	17

MVP: **Eli Manning** (QB), **Giants**
30 of 40 passing, 296 yards, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL XLVII

February 3, 2013
Mercedes-Benz Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **71,024**

Baltimore Ravens	34
San Francisco 49ers	31

MVP: **Joe Flacco** (QB), **Ravens**
22 of 33 passing, 287 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL XLVIII

February 2, 2014
MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford
Attendance: **82,529**

Seattle Seahawks	43
Denver Broncos	8

MVP: **Malcolm Smith** (LB), **Seahawks**
9 tackles, 69-yard interception-return TD

For the second time in five seasons, Eli Manning and the Giants upset the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Their 21-17 victory in Super Bowl XLVI was achieved with a late 88-yard drive that Ahmad Bradshaw capped with a 6-yard TD run.

CHRIS O'MEARA/AP IMAGES

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL XLIX

February 1, 2015
University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale
Attendance: **70,288**

New England Patriots	**28**
Seattle Seahawks	24

MVP: **Tom Brady** (QB), **Patriots**
37 of 50 passing, 328 yards, 4 TDs

SUPER BOWL 50

February 7, 2016
Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara
Attendance: **71,088**

Carolina Panthers	10
Denver Broncos	**24**

MVP: **Von Miller** (LB), **Broncos**
6 tackles, 2.5 sacks, 2 forced fumbles

SUPER BOWL LI

February 5, 2017
NRG Stadium, Houston
Attendance: **70,807**

New England Patriots	**34**	**(OT)**
Atlanta Falcons	28	

MVP: **Tom Brady** (QB), **Patriots**
43 of 62 passing, 466 yards, 2 TDs

SUPER BOWL LII

February 4, 2018
U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis
Attendance: **67,612**

Philadelphia Eagles	**41**
New England Patriots	33

MVP: **Nick Foles** (QB), **Eagles**
28 of 43 passing, 373 yards, 3 TDs; 1 TD reception

Von Miller reaches for a loose ball during Denver's Super Bowl 50 win over Carolina at Levi's Stadium. Miller forced two fumbles in the game — each leading to Broncos touchdowns.

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SUPER BOWL HISTORY

SUPER BOWL LIII
February 3, 2019
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta
Attendance: **70,081**

New England Patriots	**13**
Los Angeles Rams	**3**

MVP: Julian Edelman (WR), **Patriots**
10 receptions, 141 yards

SUPER BOWL LIV
February 2, 2020
Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens
Attendance: **62,417**

San Francisco 49ers	**20**
Kansas City Chiefs	**31**

MVP: Patrick Mahomes (QB), **Chiefs**
26 of 42 passing, 286 yards, 2 TDs; 29 yards rushing, 1 TD

SUPER BOWL LV
February 7, 2021
Raymond James Stadium, Tampa
Attendance: **24,835**

Kansas City Chiefs	**9**
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	**31**

MVP: Tom Brady (QB), **Buccaneers**
21 of 29 passing, 201 yards, 3 TDs

SUPER BOWL LVI
February 13, 2022
SoFi Stadium, Inglewood
Attendance: **70,048**

Los Angeles Rams	**23**
Cincinnati Bengals	**20**

MVP: Cooper Kupp (WR), **Rams**
8 receptions, 92 yards, 2 TDs

EAGLES RISE TO THE MOMENT

Completing a run that saw them score the most points in NFL postseason history, the Eagles excelled on both sides of the ball in Super Bowl LIX to capture their second league championship in eight years.

Jalen Hurts threw a pair of touchdown passes — the second of those a 46-yarder to DeVonta Smith that all but put the game out of reach — and Cooper DeJean scored on a 38-yard interception return as Philadelphia denied the Chiefs' bid for a third consecutive Super Bowl crown.

The Eagles broke through on their second possession, with Jahan Dotson's 27-yard catch setting up a 1-yard Hurts TD run. Hurts, in addition to throwing for 221 yards, led all rushers with 72 yards.

After Jake Elliott's 48-yard field goal pushed the lead to 10-0, Philadelphia's defense took over. Jalyx Hunt sacked Kansas City QB Patrick Mahomes on back-to-back plays before DeJean, celebrating his 22nd birthday, stepped in front of a pass that he brought back for a TD. Zack Baun then added an interception just before halftime to set up A.J. Brown's 12-yard scoring catch that made it 24-0.

Philadelphia tacked on 10 more points in the third quarter, getting a 29-yard Elliott field goal and, one play after stopping the Chiefs on downs near midfield, striking on the Hurts-to-Smith TD pass that extended the lead to 34-0.

A pair of fourth-quarter field goals gave the Eagles 40 points for the game and 145 for the postseason, breaking the mark of 131, set by the San Francisco 49ers on their way to winning Super Bowl XXIX.

Defensively, the Eagles surrendered 225 yards to the Chiefs — just 23 of those in the first half — and Josh Sweat was credited with 2.5 of the team's six sacks.

"This is the ultimate team game. You can't be great without the greatness of others. Great performance by everybody — offense, defense, special teams," Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni said. "We didn't really ever care what anyone thought about how we won, or their opinions. All we want to do is win."

Jalen Hurts (1) looks to elude Chiefs safety Justin Reid during the Eagles' Super Bowl LIX victory. Hurts, who won the Rozelle Award as MVP, threw for 221 yards and ran for another 72, including the game's first touchdown.

BRYNN ANDERSON/AP IMAGES

SUPER BOWL LVII

February 12, 2023
State Farm Stadium, Glendale
Attendance: **67,827**

Kansas City Chiefs	**38**
Philadelphia Eagles	**35**

MVP: **Patrick Mahomes** (QB), **Chiefs**
21 of 27 passing, 182 yards,
3 TDs; 44 rushing yards

SUPER BOWL LVIII

February 11, 2024
Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas
Attendance: **61,629**

San Francisco 49ers	**22**	**(OT)**
Kansas City Chiefs	**25**	

MVP: **Patrick Mahomes** (QB), **Chiefs**
34 of 46 passing, 333 yards,
2 TDs; 66 rushing yards

SUPER BOWL LIX

February 9, 2025
Caesars Superdome, New Orleans
Attendance: **65,719**

Kansas City Chiefs	**22**
Philadelphia Eagles	**40**

MVP: **Jalen Hurts** (QB), **Eagles**
17 of 22 passing, 221 yards,
2 TDs; 72 rushing yards, 1 TD

BRYNN ANDERSON/AP IMAGES

AFL/NFL/AAFC CHAMPIONS

From 1920-31, the NFL did not have postseason play, but a first-place tie in 1932 forced a "playoff" — and its success led the league to adopt a championship game format a year later.

NFL CHAMPIONS

1920 AKRON PROS
1921 CHICAGO STALEYS
1922 CANTON BULLDOGS
1923 CANTON BULLDOGS
1924 CLEVELAND BULLDOGS
1925 CHICAGO CARDINALS
1926 FRANKFORD YELLOW JACKETS
1927 NEW YORK GIANTS
1928 PROVIDENCE STEAM ROLLER
1929 GREEN BAY PACKERS
1930 GREEN BAY PACKERS
1931 GREEN BAY PACKERS

1932	PORTSMOUTH SPARTANS	0
	CHICAGO BEARS	**9**
1933	NEW YORK GIANTS	21
	CHICAGO BEARS	**23**
1934	CHICAGO BEARS	13
	NEW YORK GIANTS	**30**
1935	NEW YORK GIANTS	7
	DETROIT LIONS	**26**
1936*	**WASHINGTON REDSKINS**	**21**
	BOSTON BRAVES	6
1937	**WASHINGTON REDSKINS**	**28**
	CHICAGO BEARS	21
1938	GREEN BAY PACKERS	17
	NEW YORK GIANTS	**23**
1939	NEW YORK GIANTS	0
	GREEN BAY PACKERS	**27**
1940	**CHICAGO BEARS**	**73**
	WASHINGTON REDSKINS	0
1941	NEW YORK GIANTS	9
	CHICAGO BEARS	**37**
1942	CHICAGO BEARS	6
	WASHINGTON REDSKINS	**14**
1943	WASHINGTON REDSKINS	21
	CHICAGO BEARS	**41**
1944	**GREEN BAY PACKERS**	**14**
	NEW YORK GIANTS	7
1945	WASHINGTON REDSKINS	14
	CLEVELAND RAMS	**15**
1946	**CHICAGO BEARS**	**24**
	NEW YORK GIANTS	14
1947	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	21
	CHICAGO CARDINALS	**28**
1948	CHICAGO CARDINALS	0
	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	**7**
1949	**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES**	**14**
	LOS ANGELES RAMS	0
1950	LOS ANGELES RAMS	28
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**30**
1951	CLEVELAND BROWNS	17
	LOS ANGELES RAMS	**24**

*Held at the Polo Grounds (New York, N.Y.)

Chicago's "Bullet" Bill Osmanski (9) is tackled by Washington's Willie Wilkin during the 1940 NFL Championship Game. The Bears dominated the contest, 73-0, for the franchise's fourth league title.

1952	**DETROIT LIONS**	**17**
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	7
1953	CLEVELAND BROWNS	16
	DETROIT LIONS	**17**
1954	DETROIT LIONS	10
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**56**
1955	**CLEVELAND BROWNS**	**38**
	LOS ANGELES RAMS	14
1956	CHICAGO BEARS	7
	NEW YORK GIANTS	**47**
1957	CLEVELAND BROWNS	14
	DETROIT LIONS	**59**
1958	**BALTIMORE COLTS**	**23** (OT)
	NEW YORK GIANTS	17
1959	NEW YORK GIANTS	16
	BALTIMORE COLTS	**31**
1960	GREEN BAY PACKERS	13
	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	**17**
1961	NEW YORK GIANTS	0
	GREEN BAY PACKERS	**37**
1962	**GREEN BAY PACKERS**	**16**
	NEW YORK GIANTS	7
1963	NEW YORK GIANTS	10
	CHICAGO BEARS	**14**
1964	BALTIMORE COLTS	0
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**27**
1965	CLEVELAND BROWNS	12
	GREEN BAY PACKERS	**23**
1966	**GREEN BAY PACKERS**	**34**
	DALLAS COWBOYS	27
1967	DALLAS COWBOYS	17
	GREEN BAY PACKERS	**21**
1968	**BALTIMORE COLTS**	**34**
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	0
1969	CLEVELAND BROWNS	7
	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	**27**

The AFL began play in 1960, and from 1966-69 (before the merger), the two leagues held separate title games prior to the Super Bowl.

AFL CHAMPIONS

1960	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	16
	HOUSTON OILERS	**24**
1961	**HOUSTON OILERS**	**10**
	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	3
1962	**DALLAS TEXANS**	**20** (OT)
	HOUSTON OILERS	17
1963	BOSTON PATRIOTS	10
	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	**51**
1964	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	7
	BUFFALO BILLS	**20**
1965	**BUFFALO BILLS**	**23**
	SAN DIEGO CHARGERS	0
1966	**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**	**31**
	BUFFALO BILLS	7
1967	HOUSTON OILERS	7
	OAKLAND RAIDERS	**40**
1968	OAKLAND RAIDERS	23
	NEW YORK JETS	**27**
1969	**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS**	**17**
	OAKLAND RAIDERS	7

The AAFC (All-America Football Conference) was a professional football league from 1946-49. In 2025, the AAFC history and statistics became officially recognized as part of NFL history.

AAFC CHAMPIONS

1946	NEW YORK YANKEES	9
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**14**
1947	**CLEVELAND BROWNS**	**14**
	NEW YORK YANKEES	3
1948	BUFFALO BILLS	7
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**49**
1949	SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS	7
	CLEVELAND BROWNS	**21**

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MARCH

FREE AGENCY/ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING

March is one of the busiest months of the non-playing season. The 2026 League Year commences Wednesday, March 11, at 4 p.m., highlighted by the start of free agency. Later in the month, on March 29 – April 1, NFL owners, coaches, and general managers will gather in Phoenix, Ariz., to discuss "all things NFL," including any changes to the playing rules for the 2026 season. Stay on top of the news at **NFL.com**.

APRIL 23-25 **PITTSBURGH**

NFL DRAFT

Pittsburgh's Point State Park, the surrounding North Shore, and Acrisure Stadium will be in the spotlight when the curtain rises on the 91st annual NFL Draft. NFL Network and ESPN will provide full live coverage of the three-day event — which begins in prime time on April 23 — while ABC will televise the first round. More details, including the updated draft order, are available at **NFL.com/draft**.

MID-JULY

TRAINING CAMP

With the start of training camp, NFL teams officially begin their quest for a Super Bowl title. Follow NFL.com and NFL Network for analysis and insights from around the league, and NFL Network will again televise every preseason game — several of them live. Get updates at **NFL.com/trainingcamp**.

AUGUST 6-9 **CANTON**

PFHOF ENSHRINEMENT WEEK

Honor the Greatest of the Game during the 2026 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Week. Visit **profootballhof.com/tickets** for information on tickets and VIP packages.

SEPTEMBER 10

NFL KICKOFF

The 2026 NFL season will open with a celebration at the home of the Super Bowl LX champion, continuing a tradition that began more than two decades ago. The 2025 event in Philadelphia featured performances by Boyz II Men and Laurin Talese prior to the Eagles game vs. the Cowboys. Learn more at **NFL.com/kickoff**.

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

Next year's NFL slate will have up to nine international contests, including the first-ever regular-season game in Australia. Other confirmed game sites include London, Madrid, Mexico City, and Rio de Janeiro. The full list of dates, locations, and matchups will be available this spring on **NFL.com**.

FEBRUARY 14, 2027 **LOS ANGELES**

SUPER BOWL LXI

SoFi Stadium, home to the Chargers and the Rams, will host the Super Bowl for the second time when the NFL caps its 107th season with Super Bowl LXI in Los Angeles. The game will be televised by ESPN and ABC. Learn more about the game and the many events leading up to it at NFL.com/superbowl and lasuperbowlhc.com.

PERRY KNOTTS/AP IMAGES (top); ERIN HOOLEY/AP IMAGES (middle); SUE OGROCKI/AP IMAGES (bottom)

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In Memoriam

PAUL TAGLIABUE (1940-2025)

As NFL Commissioner, he championed progress, honored tradition, and guided the league to heights few could have imagined.

BY JOE BROWNE

AMY CONN GUTIERREZ/AP IMAGES

When former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a member of the Centennial Class of 2020, he was given the choice where to accept his Hall of Fame ring.

Hall of Fame players traditionally receive their ring in the home stadium where they played, a policy that allowed Tagliabue the unique opportunity to pick from *any* of the NFL's 32 homes. He selected Green Bay's Lambeau Field during halftime of the annual Bears-Packers game there, citing the historic nature of the league's most-played rivalry.

Tagliabue, who died November 9, 2025, at age 84 at his home in Chevy Chase, Md., also believed it would be historic if an NFL commissioner — for the first time — was presented his ring in front of the loyal Packers fans who actually are the owners of that team. He noted that Bears owner Virginia McCaskey, the daughter of league co-founder George Halas, also would be in attendance, adding to the significance.

Not everyone was onboard with the idea. The game was scheduled for a Sunday night ... in mid-December. Some Tagliabue senior staffers questioned whether traveling to

the Upper Midwest and being on the field for any length of time in potentially bitter conditions was the smartest move.

"Why not accept your ring in sunny Miami at a Dolphins afternoon game?" one staff member asked, half in jest.

Tagliabue, though, insisted on Green Bay, and, as usual, he was right. The ceremony went smoothly as Packers fans warmly greeted him in balmy 38-degree weather.

In retrospect, Tagliabue's decision should not have surprised anyone who knew him. In his 17 years as commissioner (1989–2006), he always considered what was best for the league, not what was most comfortable for him. That is what, in part, made him an effective sports leader and a worthy successor to Pete Rozelle, who had guided the league the previous 30 years.

Born November 24, 1940, in Jersey City, N.J., Tagliabue attended Georgetown University on a basketball scholarship and earned a rare double of being elected team captain and senior class president. He then enrolled in New York University Law School on an academic scholarship and graduated near the top of his class in 1965.

After law school, Tagliabue worked at the U.S. Department of Defense, starting in the International Security Affairs unit in the Pentagon. He later was assigned to travel around the United States and Europe to learn about nuclear weapons and the people involved in weapons policy. It was impressive work, but following personnel changes at the top of the department, he elected to leave in 1969 and join the law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington D.C.

As fate would have it, the list of clients he worked for in his early years at C&B included the NFL, and one of his first assignments involved the infamous Joe Namath-Bachelors III case. Namath was forced to sell his interest in the New York establishment out of the league's concern that it was a hangout for known gamblers.

Tagliabue represented the league in several trials, among them the John Mackey labor case in the 1970s and a series of Raiders anti-trust battles in the early '80s. He also was in a New York courthouse every day during the 11-week trial when owners of the United States Football League sued the NFL for $1.7 billion. The jury deliberated five days and awarded the upstart league $1. The USFL never played another game.

When Rozelle announced his retirement in March 1989, Tagliabue's name was floated among several as his successor. The league

Paul Tagliabue chose to receive his Hall of Fame ring at halftime of a 2021 Packers-Bears game at Lambeau Field, citing the historic nature of the rivalry and out of respect to Green Bay's fans.

hired a search firm to vet the candidates, but the process stalled and weeks turned into months as Rozelle waited for the new leader to be named. Eventually, the finalists were Tagliabue and Saints general manager Jim Finks, a former player and club front-office veteran.

When the search firm summarized the pros and cons of each candidate, one of its hesitations with Tagliabue was how he "... would perform under the klieg lights of a trophy presentation in a winning Super Bowl locker room." If that was what worried the firm, Tagliabue supporters questioned whether the firm had a full grasp of the immense magnitude of the NFL top job.

On October 26, 1989, after seven months and 12 ballots, Tagliabue was named NFL Commissioner. He would accomplish many firsts for the league during his years at the helm, both in front of — and away from — the klieg lights.

His initial call on his first day in office was to Gene Upshaw, the Raiders Hall of Famer and executive director of the NFL players union. With no collective bargaining agreement between the owners and players for several years, Tagliabue wanted to end the stalemate. He invited Upshaw to a quiet one-on-one dinner that began a special relationship and, ultimately, led to a landmark CBA in 1993. The two men also negotiated a more stringent drug policy to assist those players with substance abuse problems and to help rid the league of performance-enhancing drugs.

On the field, the NFL had not expanded since 1976, but four new teams were added in the first decade of his tenure, increasing the total to the current 32 clubs.

Tagliabue also stared down crises. He showed strength and independence after the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and was someone whom other league commissioners looked to for leadership during that time. With speculation rampant whether the NFL would play games the weekend after the attacks, Tagliabue stood tall. He postponed all Week 3 games.

Four years later, after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and wreaked havoc on that community, he made it clear there was no way the league would allow the Saints to move permanently to another city. They remained in New Orleans, embraced their role in its recovery, and won their first Super Bowl (XLIV) on February 7, 2010. Fans in The Big Easy remain grateful to this day.

Viewership and revenue also grew exponentially during his tenure, and although Tagliabue said he did not want his legacy defined by the television dollars the league received, there's no doubt it was among his successes. Each team received $17 million in TV revenue in 1989; by 2006, that amount was well over $100 million. NFL Network also hit the airwaves while Tagliabue was in charge, debuting in 2003.

Even with his reserved nature, Tagliabue always seemed to be three steps ahead of most individuals he encountered. He was a leader with a vision and a sense of duty who had an interest in many matters beyond sports. Tagliabue was a longtime advocate for the LGBTQ community, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and tireless in his work to improve the security of the American electoral process.

Paul Tagliabue loved the NFL and its fans, players, and coaches. In turn, he was respected by all those who knew him. His legacy is secure in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, and he will be missed at all major NFL events, including Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara.

Joe Browne was the NFL's EVP for Communications and Government Affairs under Paul Tagliabue. After retiring in 2016, he twice has been honored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame for his innovative contributions to the NFL's growth and popularity during his 50 years at league headquarters.

JEFFREY PHELPS/AP IMAGES

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CHUCK SOLOMON/GETTY IMAGES (stadium); PETER READ MILLER/GETTY IMAGES (Starks); BOB ROSATO/GETTY IMAGES (Dixon)

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

THE RAVENS' SMOTHERING DEFENSE MAY HAVE BEEN THE BIG STORY OF SUPER BOWL XXXV, BUT THE GAME ALSO DELIVERED A SCORING FLURRY FOR THE AGES.

BY IAN RAPOPORT

WALTER IOOSS JR./GETTY IMAGES

It has been 25 years since **Brian Billick** stood on the Raymond James Stadium sidelines during Super Bowl XXXV in a black pullover with "Ravens" on the chest and matching black pants. Twenty-five years since those indelible thoughts ran through his head. Yet he remembers them like they were yesterday.

Midway through the most electric scoring barrage in Super Bowl history, after watching Giants rookie Ron Dixon run back a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to put underdog New York right back in it, Billick knew his team needed to respond. He felt it. They had to have something because, in his words, "Otherwise it was going to be a fight."

Enter Jermaine Lewis, one of Baltimore's "other" Lewises, who took the ensuing kickoff 84 yards for a Ravens touchdown — settling Billick's nerves and leading his mind to go to one particular place.

"It probably shouldn't have been this thought," Billick recently recalled. "But emotionally, it was like, 'OK, they're done.' Once we got [Lewis' touchdown], it was our game.

"Even though we had dominated the game through that point, once they got their touchdown, it was like, 'We have to do something — offensively, special teams, something.' Then Jermaine returned the kickoff, and it was the ultimate momentum swing."

Baltimore's 34-7 win over Jim Fassel's all-in Giants is remembered for putting one of the game's greatest defenses on display for the world to see. Ray Lewis, Tony Siragusa, Rod Woodson, and Duane Starks were among the studs who became household names. But that's not the only reason it stands out to Billick and those who took part in the game. It was also a third-quarter scoring blitz, with 21 points in 36 sizzling seconds, a Super Bowl binge that was unheard of then and has never been duplicated. It's also a topic that comes up when the greats of that team get together.

"This team overcame so many things," Billick says. "It created a bond above and beyond what's normal for a Super Bowl team."

The sequence began with the Ravens leading, 10-0, with 3:58 left in the third quarter — and the idea of the first Super Bowl shutout becoming a possibility — but with the Giants looking to gain momentum as they took possession near midfield.

On first down, however, Ravens CB **Duane Starks** jumped an out-route thrown by quarterback Kerry Collins and glided 49 yards for a pick-six touchdown to make it a 17-0 game. Amani Toomer was the intended receiver, but Starks caught it in his belly and immediately sprinted for the end zone. He coasted the final few yards, untouched. With paydirt secured, he knelt in appreciation.

The Giants immediately responded, as **Ron Dixon** used the next 18 seconds to go 97 yards for his kickoff-return TD. Dixon caught the ball inside the 5, raced to the middle of the field, broke through at the 30-yard line, and suddenly had no one in front of him. He literally jogged the final 50 yards, having dodged and darted his way through the Ravens' special teams unit.

Jermaine Lewis got Baltimore back on track, covering 84 yards for his score. He fielded the short kickoff at the 16 and raced forward, with color commentator Phil Simms quickly noting, "We may have another one." Lewis flew to the sidelines, ducked through a few Giants, and crossed the goal line with his right arm and index finger stretched over his head, showing everyone that he had just scored one more. "Can you believe it?" Greg Gumbel asked on the broadcast.

History.

And each play tells a story.

Of the Collins interception, Starks says he had studied the Giants' quarterback extensively and knew that if he gave a little hop, an out-route was coming.

"As soon as he gave me that hop, I went for it, and he threw it right to the spot."

Of the Dixon kickoff return, Giants linebacker Jessie Armstead remembers wondering, "You think, maybe we're back in it."

Of the Lewis lightning bolt to the heart of the Giants, Billick notes that perhaps the best thing for the Giants at the time would have been not scoring that quickly and igniting Baltimore.

"It almost would've been better if they hadn't had that kickoff return," Billick says. "Because once we returned ours, you could see ... it was just a palpable feeling from the Giants, like, 'OK, this isn't going to happen. The Gods are against us. No way we're going to win.'

"We took that little burst of hope away from them. Once we had [our kickoff-return touchdown], we knew they were done."

Indeed, it was too much. Over the game's final 18 minutes, the Giants managed one first down and fumbled away a kickoff.

Both teams took everything they had just to get there. Remember, this is the season when Fassel's team had lost two straight before Thanksgiving and looked to be reeling. Talented, yes. But struggling. Fassel, however, still believed.

And so, with his job security hanging in the balance, knowing

ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES (Billick); ROBERTO BOREA/AP IMAGES (Starks); MITCHELL B. REIBEL (Dixon); GEORGE GOJKOVICH/GETTY IMAGES (Lewis)

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Ravens head coach Brian Billick raises the Lombardi Trophy following his team's 34-7 win over the Giants in Super Bowl XXXV. Baltimore's defense didn't allow a point in the game, had four interceptions, and limited New York's offense to 152 yards.

that not making the playoffs could spell the end of his tenure, Fassel made an iconic statement.

"This is a poker game, and I'm shoving my chips to the middle of the table," he told reporters. "I'm raising the ante, and anybody who wants in, get in. Anybody who wants out can get out. This team is going to the playoffs, OK? This team is going to the playoffs."

Unheard of and magical. The Giants won their last five regular-season games and cruised through the playoffs, including a 41-0 pummeling of the Minnesota Vikings in the NFC title game.

They knew, though, that it was all a longshot. So much so that legendary team owner Wellington Mara quipped to the fans, "This team was referred to as the worst team ever to win the home-field advantage in the National Football League. And today, on our field of painted mud, we proved we're the worst team ever to win the NFC championship. In two weeks, we're going to try to become the worst team ever to win the Super Bowl."

It had been a challenging season for the Ravens, too. A challenging year, in fact, dating back to Ray Lewis' legal trouble at the previous Super Bowl in Atlanta that thrust him into the national spotlight in a way no one wanted. Lewis later pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice. That was the off-the-field drama.

On the field, starting quarterback Tony Banks was benched after the offense went four consecutive games without a touchdown. In came Trent Dilfer, who started the final eight regular-season contests (going 7-1) and all four playoff games.

By the Super Bowl, they were on fire. With the lead 24-7 thanks to that three-play sequence, Baltimore appeared primed to win. They just needed one more score. Enter running back Jamal Lewis, who two drives later took a pitch from the 3-yard line, went around the left side, and dove to the pylon to begin a "did-he or didn't he" debate for replay. If he held the ball long enough, it was a touchdown and essentially game over. If not? Game on.

Billick laughs recalling a moment that was immortalized on NFL Films.

"The cameras caught me saying, 'If this is good, we're Super Bowl champions."

It was, and they were. There was no visual evidence to review it. That was with 8:51 left to play, giving Billick the final half of the fourth quarter to soak it up.

"At that point, we had the game," Billick says. "We really had nearly a full quarter to take it all in and realize we were Super Bowl champs."

They did win it all on cruise control, thanks in part to that electric 36 seconds.

"That was pretty dramatic," Billick says.

Ian Rapoport is the NFL National Insider for NFL Network, where he's worked since 2012. Before that, he covered the Patriots for the **Boston Herald.** *Rapoport can be found on Twitter and Instagram by the handle @RapSheet.*

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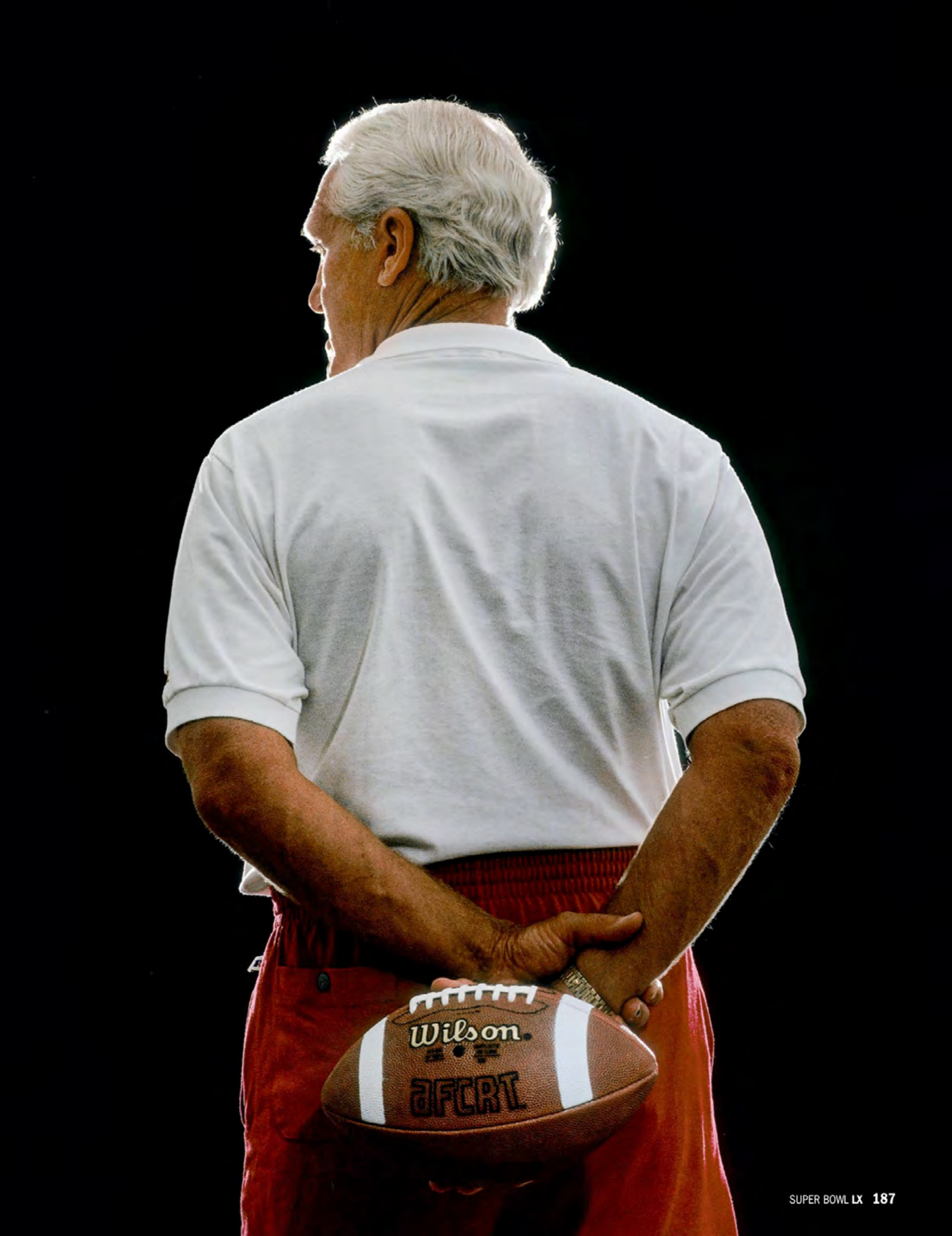
ROOTS, BRANCHES, AND BUDS

Bill Walsh's vision on how the game is taught can be seen across generations — from those who worked alongside him to today's coaches who carefully study his methods.

BY CAMERON WOLFE


Wilson
AFCRT

49ers head coach Bill Walsh (kneeling left) and owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr. (kneeling right) pose in front of offensive coordinator Mike Holmgren (center) and the team's wide receivers and quarterbacks prior to Super Bowl XXIII. San Francisco won the game for the franchise's third Super Bowl title.

MIKE HOLMGREN can laugh now at the 3x5 index cards that used to torment him. It was a Bill Walsh commandment to coach his coaches, and as the new San Francisco 49ers quarterbacks coach in the mid-1980s, Holmgren was subject No.1.

"We'd be working with players, and he'd be writing non-stop. Later that evening, he'd list the coach note standings. 'Sherm Lewis was third, you had nine. Bob Kendrick was second with 10. The leader is Holmgren with 52,'" Holmgren jokes.

Holmgren once complimented Joe Montana on a 20-yard pass to Jerry Rice during practice. He saw Walsh shaking his head and writing on an index card. Later that night, Walsh's card to Holmgren read: "Ball should be six inches before the yard marker."

"Bill was a perfectionist. He used to tell me, 'If you don't try to be perfect, then you will never get there,'" Holmgren recalls. "I said I would never do that as a head coach. It never helped me get better in my mind. (But) when I ran my own teams, I caught myself copying Bill, chasing perfection."

After spending the 1986-91 seasons as a 49ers assistant, Mike Holmgren was hired as head coach of the Packers, where he delivered a championship by defeating the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI.

Holmgren channeled his inner Walsh when he became the Green Bay Packers' head coach in 1992 with a big task in developing a raw, young Brett Favre. Holmgren told his new QB coach, Steve Mariucci, that whenever Favre screwed up, he would yell at the coach, not the quarterback. When Mariucci left following the 1995 season, Andy Reid assumed what they called the "whipping boy" role.

By year five, Holmgren led Green Bay to a Super Bowl title and Favre to an MVP.

"Holmgren ripped me a new one daily. He told me if players care enough about you, they'll respond. It's exactly what Walsh did," Mariucci says. "He also taught me never let someone you get after leave the building without a pat on the back."

Reid, now a three-time Super Bowl-winning head coach with the Kansas City Chiefs, adds: "Your QB coach has to be strong and a little bit of a buffer. I was the buffer. Mike taught me — just like he was between Bill Walsh and Joe Montana."

Walsh died in 2007, but this is the ever-lasting impact of his legacy. A champions' row of head coaches past and present built off his vision of how organizations should be led and a willingness to challenge norms.

"Legacy often has a selfish connotation," Los Angeles Rams head coach Sean McVay explains. "But in Bill Walsh's case, his legacy isn't the three Super Bowl titles or the West Coast offense. His legacy is how many coaches he's developed directly or indirectly — me included. His legacy is legendary."

Previous spread: BOB GALBRAITH/AP IMAGES (Holmgren); MARK LENNIHAN/AP IMAGES (Rhodes); RON HEFLIN/AP IMAGES (Seifert); MATT YORK/AP IMAGES (Green); FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES (Walsh). This page: FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES (top); ED REINKE/AP IMAGES (Holmgren)

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Mariucci adds: "West Coast was more than a damn offense. It's a new way of life. It's how you practice. It's how you develop players and coach coaches."

Win by Being Cerebral

Tony Dungy spent just one season as a player under Bill Walsh — 1979 — a miserable, rebuilding first season when the 49ers struggled to a 2-14 record. Dungy remembers it as one of the most important experiences of his life. Five years later, Dungy was the Steelers' defensive coordinator, defeating Walsh's 49ers one fall day. In a quiet postgame moment, Dungy told Walsh the man he was during that 1979 adversity helped instill his own coaching principles.

"Walsh never wavered or changed his philosophy. The results were bad, but the process wasn't," Dungy says. "Similar to (Steelers) Coach (Chuck) Noll, Bill wasn't into emotion or macho football. No profanity. No working players to the ground. He wanted to teach. Even in that year, he taught me so much. He made it clear you can win games based on being cerebral and game-planning."

When Dungy received loud doubts after starting off 1-8 in his first year as the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' head coach in 1996, he didn't waver either. Instead, he repeatedly spoke to his team about what Walsh would do and the importance of perseverance.

Dungy led those Bucs to a 5-2 record to finish that season, made the playoffs four out of the next five years, and set the foundation for the 2002 Bucs that won the Super Bowl title, led by head coach Jon Gruden — another branch of the Walsh tree. Dungy later won a Super Bowl with the Indianapolis Colts and became a Hall of Fame coach.

Ironically, Gruden remembers that title season as one of his most difficult. Traded (by the Raiders) to a new team and unable to bring his own assistants to help fix a struggling offense, he resorted to watching old VHS tapes of Walsh's 49ers offensive installs and studying 1985 playbooks as a reference.

"We'll probably be the last team to ever win the Super Bowl with no shotgun snaps. It was a tribute to Walsh," Gruden says. "We didn't have the firepower to be Walsh's 49ers. But we had their mental toughness and offensive efficiency. We pounded the rock. (Quarterback) Brad Johnson got hot late and our offense played smart enough to help our defense be more potent."

One of Gruden's best skills that season was one he stole from Walsh: teaching the West Coast offense, a somewhat complex system based on precise, timing-based short passing and making it simple for his players and coaches.

"I wanted to emulate Walsh. I considered the West Coast offense to be the Bible. So, I studied him and his Bible," Gruden says. "Walsh helped me a lot with the big picture. He taught me accumulation of knowledge is a powerful thing, but so is the accumulation of nothing — so go get some knowledge."

Walsh (left), who joined the 49ers' front office after his coaching days, speaks with head coach Steve Mariucci prior to a 2002 playoff game.

Tony Dungy played for the 49ers in 1979, Walsh's first season as the team's head coach, and used the lessons he learned to forge a Hall of Fame coaching career.

Empowering Coaches, Taking Care of Players

It's 1988 — Walsh's last year as the 49ers' head coach. The team had a frustrating 6-5 start and was muddled in a dual-quarterback dilemma between Montana and Steve Young. One night, Walsh called for a rare post-practice fancy candlelight dinner with crystal plates in owner Eddie Debartolo's office.

Walsh went around the room telling each coach the mistakes they were making that were leading to the lukewarm season. Assistant coaches took the lashing until one — Holmgren — spoke up.

"I told him, 'Yes we're making mistakes, but the problem is you,'" Holmgren recalls. "We have two of the best QBs in the league, but you've got to pick one."

Walsh slammed the table and stormed out. He returned 15 minutes later saying Holmgren was right and they were going to go with Joe. He pulled Holmgren aside after and handed his young assistant play-calling duties with a firm ultimatum: *Your plan better work.*

San Francisco destroyed defending Super Bowl champion Washington the next week. Walsh gave Holmgren the game ball. Two months later, the 49ers won their third Super Bowl title.

"He empowered me," Holmgren says. "He taught me to listen to and empower my coaches."

Reid never coached under Walsh but learned all his principles through Holmgren. His Walsh moment came in late November 2002 when the Philadelphia Eagles beat the 49ers. Walsh, now out of coaching and a 49ers consultant, met Reid in his locker room with a message.

"'Keep bearing down. Everything is going to be alright. You're doing a nice job,'" Reid recalls Walsh saying. "Early in my career, there were some highs and lows getting things going in Philadelphia. Hearing him say you're doing a nice job gave me something extra."

When Mariucci took over as 49ers head coach in 1997, he struggled to keep up with his predecessors' standard. George Seifert led the team to two Super Bowl titles right after Walsh's three. One practice, Mariucci asked Walsh — then the team president — "What should I change?"

STEVE NESIUS/AP IMAGES (top); SCOTT AUDETTE/AP IMAGES (Dungy)

INSPIRE CHANGE

The NFL's Inspire Change initiative focuses on reducing barriers to opportunity and creating progress in education, economic advancement, police-community relations, and criminal justice reform.

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"Bill told me, 'Keep doing what you're doing, but do it better,'" Mariucci says. "It stuck with me. It calmed me down. It can work for anyone in any profession."

Walsh also had a unique feel for players and implemented a smarter schedule instead of more popular two-a-day padded practices. A focus on walkthroughs for mental reps and taking care of veteran players. All offensive install meetings videotaped and studied. Padded practices typically in mornings when it was cooler. There was a non-negotiable standard and respect for practice. The trend continued with Holmgren, who spread it to Mariucci, Gruden, and Reid.

"The NFL was a stomp, crush, kill league. Run the ball and stop the run. Instead of a blacksmith, Bill was an artist," Holmgren says. "He explained the 'why' to the players and us. Bill valued teachers. He thought differently. He encouraged us to think differently."

Not Fitting 'The Mold'

Walsh regularly vented to assistants and players how getting passed over for the Cincinnati Bengals' head coaching job in 1976 fueled him. He spent eight years learning under Hall of Fame coach Paul Brown and birthing his offensive philosophy with heavy success. When Brown retired, he delegated the head role to Bill "Tiger" Johnson over Walsh.

"Walsh talked about not fitting their mold. Not ornery or manly enough," Dungy says. "He looked for good people who didn't fit the mold: Dennis Green, Ray Rhodes, and Mike Holmgren. He didn't care how they looked, dressed, or talked. That was his lesson to me and the league."

Part of Walsh's *good people who didn't fit the mold* mentality was Black coaches' opportunities. Walsh disciples — Green, Rhodes, Dungy — became the NFL's third, fourth, and fifth Black head coaches. Dungy said Walsh believed in hiring talented overlooked coaches, many of whom happened to be Black.

"When the Colts played in Super Bowl XLI, I looked across the field and saw (Chicago Bears head coach) Lovie Smith, a guy who I hired, and now we're in the first Super Bowl matchup between two Black head coaches. I thought about Coach Walsh," Dungy recalls. "Coach (Mike) Tomlin, who I hired, won the Super Bowl two years later. This was Walsh's legacy, hiring guys outside the norm and watching them thrive."

The NFL's Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship features all 32 teams hiring and mentoring coaches — former players, minorities, and/or women currently coaching at the high school or college level — for training camp and preseason to get hands-on NFL coaching experience.

Walsh's impact has touched NFL head coaches who are part of his legacy despite never meeting him, such as McVay and former Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel.

McDaniel heard stories of Walsh through his mentors Kyle Shanahan and Dennis Green, but his offensive identity was built watching Walsh's tapes.

"It's all about timing. Being able to tailor fit the offense with timing and anticipation," McDaniel says. "The biggest thing I took from any Walsh tape I got my hands on was maximizing Joe Montana as an elite distributor and not necessarily a scrambler."

McVay's grandfather, John, was a well-respected lead executive in the 49ers' front office for two decades, collaborating with Walsh and Seifert during their title spree in the 1980s and '90s.

Young McVay hung around practices, heard stories, read Walsh books, and was hired for his first NFL job by a Walsh disciple — Gruden — in 2008 with Tampa Bay. He learned the "Walsh Way."

"Great leaders make other great leaders," McVay says. "It doesn't matter who you are. It matters what you can bring and can you be trusted to have agility, flexibility, and character. People over everything. Walsh set the standard the rest of us have to meet."

NFL head coaches who learned directly from Walsh or cited him as a major influence in their careers include (clockwise from top left) Ray Rhodes, Dennis Green, Sean McVay, and Jon Gruden. More than a half dozen of Walsh's assistants have gone on to head coaching positions and countless others have studied his methods.

Andy Reid credits Walsh's words of encouragement as pivotal in his development as a head coach.

Cameron Wolfe is an NFL Network reporter who contributes news, on-location reports, and analysis on TV and the NFL's digital platforms. A native of Jackson, Miss., he graduated from the University of Houston in 2015 with a degree in broadcast journalism.

JEFF ROBBINS/AP IMAGES (Rhodes); TOM OLMSCHEID/AP IMAGES (Green); JOHN MUNSON/AP IMAGES (McVay); PAUL BATTAGLIA/AP IMAGES (Gruden); REED HOFFMANN/AP IMAGES (Reid)

NATIONAL CELEBR

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From Super Bowl XIX at Stanford Stadium through the Packers' victory in Super Bowl XXXI, the NFC had a stranglehold on the Lombardi Trophy.

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS

★★★★

ATION

★ Michael Irvin caught two TD passes in a 15-second span in Super Bowl XXVII against Buffalo, helping the Cowboys capture their first Super Bowl title in 15 years.

Cowboys head coach Jimmy Johnson (center) gets a Gatorade bath after his team's Super Bowl XXVIII victory. Dallas brought home three Lombardi Trophies over a four-year span while establishing itself as the "Team of the '90s."

WHEN JIMMY JOHNSON became head coach of the Dallas Cowboys in 1989, he knew he had his work cut out for him. Not only was he replacing a future Hall of Famer in Tom Landry, a fact that turned many Cowboys fans against him Day 1, but the team was coming off a 3-13 season and played in the daunting NFC East.

The Giants won Super Bowl XXI to cap the 1986 season, and the confetti dropped on Washington a year later in Super Bowl XXII.

"You had Joe Gibbs at Washington and, of course, Bill Parcells was in New York," Johnson says. "The Eagles under Buddy Ryan were overlooked, because they didn't win many playoff games, but they were as physical and as good as anybody. The NFC East was just a gauntlet, so physical with great defense, good running games, and just overpowering the opponent."

The winner of the NFC East then had to take on the rest of the conference's powers — with the Bears, 49ers, and Packers just as formidable. In a 13-year stretch from the 49ers' win over the Dolphins in Super Bowl XIX to the Packers' victory over the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI, the NFC won *every* Super Bowl. Further illustrating its dominance, the NFC outscored the AFC, 490-219, over that span, with an average margin of victory of 21 points.

By comparison, the second-longest run of victories by one conference is the AFC's five in a row from Super Bowls VII-XI. And the all-time Super Bowl series is as narrow as it gets, with the NFC leading by just one, 30-29, thanks to the Eagles' victory a year ago.

"It still is an amazing feat," says Carmen Policy, who worked in the 49ers' front office from 1981-97. "We started getting to a point where we took it for granted that the Super Bowl was really the NFC Championship Game. Somehow, someway, no matter who played in the Super Bowl, the NFC was going to win."

The 49ers won four of their championships in the NFC's stretch of dominance. The Cowboys won three. Washington and the Giants won twice. The Bears and Packers each raised one Lombardi Trophy.

It began with the 49ers' 38-16 blowout of the Dolphins in Stanford Stadium, the closest a team had come to playing a home Super Bowl until the Buccaneers hosted Super Bowl LV at Raymond James Stadium.

"That game felt like a turning point for the Super Bowl

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itself," says Hall of Famer Edward DeBartolo, the owner of the 49ers from 1977-2000. "It was the first one that really felt like a media event, and with us playing on the West Coast, almost like a home game. The energy was unbelievable. For the longest time, I kept a photo in my office of (head coach) Bill Walsh sitting on the floor, leaning against a duffel bag right before the team took the field. It captured the calm before the storm."

Joe Montana already had a Super Bowl ring and was a three-time Pro Bowl selection when the 49ers beat the Bears, 23-0, in the 1984 NFC Championship Game. Still, *Sports Illustrated* writer Paul Zimmerman noted that "the pregame hype ... relegated [Montana] to something less than a spear carrier to Miami's dazzling young Dan Marino."

Montana admitted after the game that "the hype (of Marino) bothered me a little."

"I didn't feel overlooked, but I think our defense was overlooked," Montana says now. "We just believed we were a great team. (Hall of Fame defensive back) Ronnie Lott still thinks that was our best Super Bowl team."

Montana earned Super Bowl MVP honors by completing 24 of 35 passes for a then-Super Bowl record 331 yards and three touchdowns. Marino, who never played in another Super Bowl, threw two interceptions. The 49ers pulled away by scoring on five consecutive possessions to lift the franchise's second Lombardi Trophy.

"It meant everything," DeBartolo says. "You win one, and people say you got lucky. But you win two, and now they have to take you seriously. That second Super Bowl validated everything we were building. It proved we weren't a one-hit wonder; we weren't a flash in the pan."

For as good as they were, the 49ers didn't even make it back to the NFC Championship Game the next three seasons, with the Bears, Giants, and Washington capturing conference honors and getting sized for Super Bowl rings. San Francisco then had back-to-back titles in the 1988-89 seasons to seal Montana's place in history.

"Joe Montana was a pain in the ass," Parcells says. "We had other teams that were capable of winning it if not for him."

The Cowboys became the 49ers' biggest pain to winning more championships.

Dallas was 0-5 in Johnson's first season of 1989 when he sent Pro Bowl running back Herschel Walker to the Vikings. The trade eventually yielded the Cowboys three first-round picks and five other draft selections, delivering building blocks in running back Emmitt Smith, who became the NFL's all-time leading rusher, defensive tackle Russell Maryland, and safety Darren Woodson, among others. That was one of 50 trades made by Johnson in five years but easily the most significant.

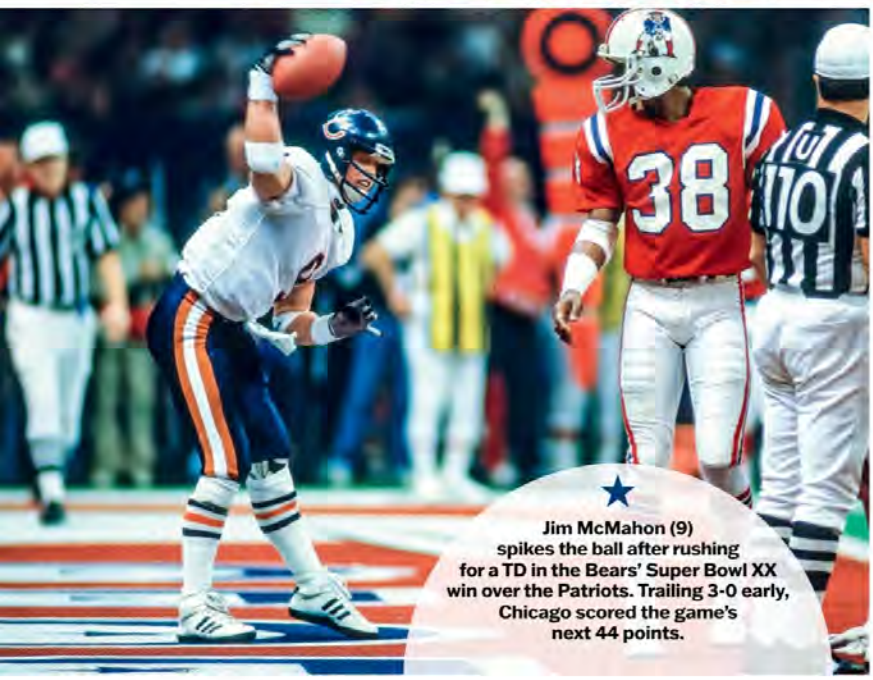
"Those picks let us take risks and do inordinate things," Cowboys Hall of Fame owner Jerry Jones says. "In the NFL, then as well as now, you have to do something to break out of the way it's structured, and that is parity. So, that trade gave us a chance to excel, because we had three times the draft collateral for three years of any other team in the NFL."

The Cowboys made the playoffs two years later but lost to the Lions, 38-6. Johnson knew he needed one more piece to get past the rest of the NFC. That piece was an elite edge rusher.

Charles Haley had 63.5 sacks and won two Super Bowl titles in his six seasons in San Francisco, but the brash defensive end had worn out his welcome and worn out

Mark Rypien earned MVP honors for his play in Washington's win over the Bills in Super Bowl XXVI. The team also captured Super Bowl XXII by defeating Denver.

The Giants' defense, led by Carl Banks (58), Lawrence Taylor (56), Jim Burt (64), and Harry Carson (53), came up big in Super Bowl XXI vs. Denver to win the franchise's first Super Bowl title. New York added a second crown four years later.



Jim McMahon (9) spikes the ball after rushing for a TD in the Bears' Super Bowl XX win over the Patriots. Trailing 3-0 early, Chicago scored the game's next 44 points.

RICH PILLING/GETTY IMAGES (Rypien); FOCUS ON SPORT/GETTY IMAGES (Giants); JOHN BIEVER/GETTY IMAGES (McMahon)

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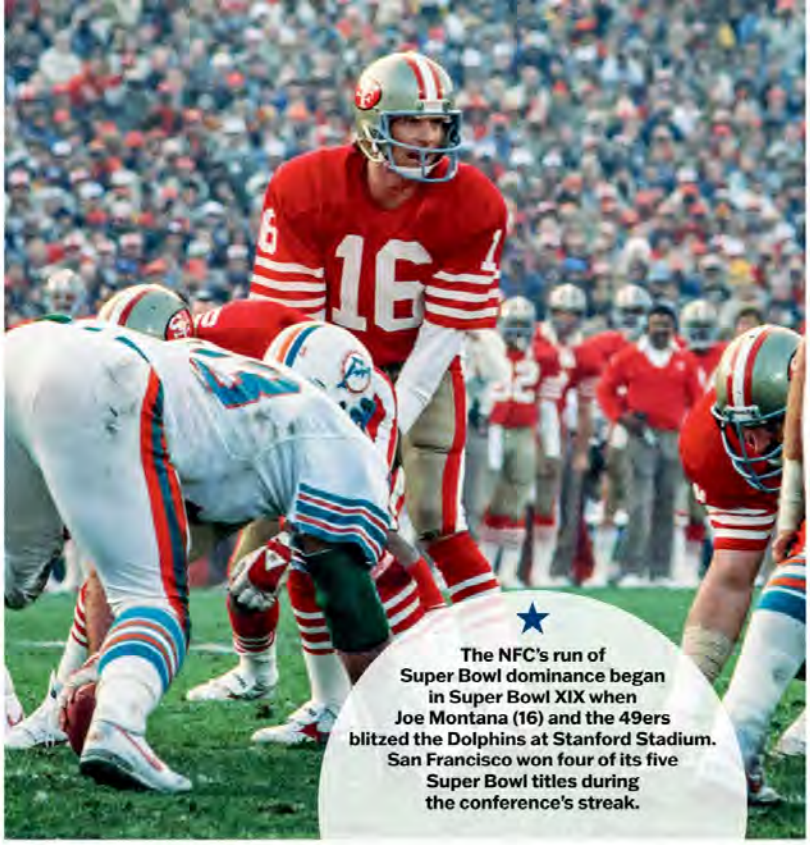

The NFC's run of Super Bowl dominance began in Super Bowl XIX when Joe Montana (16) and the 49ers blitzed the Dolphins at Stanford Stadium. San Francisco won four of its five Super Bowl titles during the conference's streak.

Andre Rison (84) and Antonio Freeman (86) celebrate an early touchdown in the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI victory over the Patriots. Green Bay's win was the 13th in a row by an NFC team in the Super Bowl.

his teammates. Team management felt it had no choice but to trade Haley, who was coming off a third Pro Bowl season. The 49ers, though, did have a choice not to trade him to Dallas. They did, however, getting second- and third-round picks in return. It tipped the balance of power in the NFC to Dallas.

"That one still stings," DeBartolo says. "I've said it before, and I'll say it again: The biggest mistake I ever made as an owner was letting them trade Charles Haley to Dallas. Charles was as tough as they come — intense, relentless, maybe too intense for some people at the time. We knew something had to give, but sending him to the Cowboys? That gave them exactly what they needed to beat us."

The Cowboys won three of the next four Super Bowls, twice defeating the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game. Though the 49ers won the Super Bowl in 1994 after topping Dallas for the conference title, the Cowboys became known as the "team of the decade."

Adding further fuel to the rivalry, the Cowboys signed All-Pro cornerback Deion Sanders in free agency after the 1994 season. He went from San Francisco, where he led the NFL with 303 interception return yards and three pick-sixes in his only season there, to Dallas. It again tipped the scale in favor of the Cowboys, who beat the Packers in the 1995 NFC Championship Game.

"Charles and Deion, they changed our team," Jones says. "They were the difference-makers in beating the 49ers."

Dallas might have won three or even four Super Bowls in a row if not for Johnson's departure in the 1994 offseason after a disagreement with Jones. Johnson has never looked back, and Jones' Cowboys won a Super Bowl in the 1995 season with Barry Switzer as head coach.

"I don't ever give it a second thought," Johnson says. "We built a team, and that team won three Super Bowls in four years during the 1990s. We were the youngest team in the league when we won our first Super Bowl (XXVII), so I knew we were going to win for a long time. I accomplished what I wanted to accomplish."

Amazingly, the 49ers and Cowboys haven't won a Super Bowl since. San Francisco's fifth came in 1994 and Dallas' fifth in 1995.

"It's a crazy thing that neither of us has won a Super Bowl since," DeBartolo says. "That rivalry burned so hot, for so long, that it left a mark on both franchises, and to be honest, I'm not sure the league has seen anything quite like it since."

The Packers broke through in 1996, beating the Panthers for NFC honors and the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI. Green Bay repeated as conference champion in 1997, this time upending the 49ers in the title game, but was upset by John Elway and the Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII to end the NFC's run of victories.

"I thought our '97 team was better," says Mike Holmgren, the Packers' head coach from 1992-98. "Denver went in as an underdog. As hard as I tried, based on the year before and how things were going, I couldn't get my team to their potential. I was nice to the team. I yelled at them. I kicked them around. I did everything I could to get them to believe Denver was really good.

"That one has stuck with me a long time, because I couldn't get done what I wanted to get done with that team. But it was a good run for us there."

Charean Williams, who works for NBC Sports/Pro Football Talk, was the 2018 recipient of the Bill Nunn Award for a long and distinguished career covering pro football. This is her 32nd season covering the NFL and her 20th season as a Pro Football Hall of Fame selector.

GEORGE GOJKOVICH/GETTY IMAGES (Montana); MARK DUNCAN/AP IMAGES (Rison/Freeman)

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In Memoriam

VIRGINIA McCASKEY (1923-2025)

Family and former players remember the longtime Bears owner for her faith, grace, and steadfast determination.

BY MICHAEL EISEN

Red Grange played his first NFL game for the Chicago Bears at Wrigley Field on Thanksgiving Day 1925. Ninety-nine years later — September 8, 2024 — Caleb Williams made his Bears debut at Soldier Field.

Grange, a charter member of both the college and pro football halls of fame, joined a league struggling in its infancy. Williams, the first selection in the 2024 NFL Draft, entered a league that is popular internationally and a franchise worth billions of dollars.

But the two players were attached by one very important link. Virginia Halas McCaskey saw both play: Grange in person as a toddler; Williams on television as a senior citizen. It is one of many fascinating factoids from an enchanting American life.

Mrs. McCaskey, the first lady of the Bears and the NFL, passed away at the age of 102 on February 6, 2025. When she died, the Bears had played 1,523 regular-season and postseason games in 105 seasons. Mrs. McCaskey was alive for all but 36 of those games. She witnessed eight of the franchise's nine championships and was acquainted with each of the Bears' 32 Hall of Famers.

"Mrs. McCaskey is football royalty," says Brian Urlacher, the Hall of Fame linebacker who spent his entire 13-season career with Chicago.

McCaskey's father, George Halas, helped found the NFL in 1920. The following year, he acquired the Decatur (Ill.) Staleys and moved them to Chicago, where he changed their name to the Bears. In addition to owning the team, he coached it for four stints covering 40 years.

Halas planned for his son (and Virginia's younger brother), George "Mugs" Halas, to succeed him. But Mugs died suddenly in December 1979. When pancreatic cancer claimed the life of "Papa Bear" less than four years later, Virginia took charge of the team with help from her husband, Ed.

"After Dad died, at age 60 I started a whole new life," Mrs. McCaskey said. "It was pretty scary."

Mrs. McCaskey put her sons — including George, the team's current chairman — in charge of the daily business at Halas Hall. But she attended almost every game, home and away, until the 2020 Covid season.

"Her role was to let others lead," says son Brian McCaskey, a longtime member of the organization. "She led quietly and by example. She really let the football people do football jobs."

Perhaps Mrs. McCaskey's modesty stemmed from her first job with the Bears, when she was 2 years old. With her mother, she attended the first 13 games of Grange's historic 19-game barnstorming tour in 1925 that elevated the NFL in America's sporting consciousness.

"When Red Grange would get off the train, there were so many people waiting to see him they decided I could be his camouflage," Mrs. McCaskey said in the NFL Films documentary *A Lifetime of Sundays*. "If he wore a hat and carried me off the train, people wouldn't recognize him. That got him through the crowd."

At Drexel University, Mrs. McCaskey majored in business management with hopes of becoming her father's secretary. She and Ed raised 11 children in the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines. Perhaps the least ostentatious owner the NFL has ever had, Mrs. McCaskey did all the housework and more.

"We all had our chores, but I don't think anybody worked harder than my mom," Brian McCaskey says. "I remember as a kid watching my mom painting the gutters on the second story of our house, up on the ladder, and I thought not many other moms were doing that.

ABOVE: Virginia McCaskey and her father, Chicago Bears' founder and coach George Halas, hold the game ball from the team's 1963 NFL Championship Game victory. McCaskey was alive for eight of the Bears' nine league titles. RIGHT: Red Grange, one of the game's legendary stars, wrote a young McCaskey an autographed note that she cherished throughout her life.

She was very determined, very tough, very stoic. She really cherished life and cherished people and cherished friendships and relationships."

And she treasured her faith. A devout Catholic, Mrs. McCaskey daily attended 6:15 a.m. mass in the chapel at Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines. She gifted countless people rosaries with beads that were orange and navy blue — Bears colors — and regularly donated to both Catholic churches and other faiths.

"When I think about Mrs. McCaskey, I think of strength, consistency, and, more than anything, quiet confidence about herself and the God that she served," says Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, a captain on the 1985 Bears team that won Super Bowl XX. "Every time I was around her, I was impressed with her ability to be in a tough sport that many women are not involved in. In every situation, she'd have a smile, show a smile, lend a smile. She was very much a quiet force to deal with."

In 2015, the Bears introduced The Virginia Award, an annual honor given to a staff member who exceeds the highest standards of achievement and upholds the spirit of Mrs. McCaskey's legacy.

"Her spirit no doubt lives on," says Lee Twarling, who joined the Bears' ticket office in 2001, was presented with the award in 2016, and is today the organization's senior vice president of fan/guest experience and stadium operations. "What drives and inspires so many of us is what she has left for this organization and the position that she has put this family in to continue to lead this organization."

Mrs. McCaskey's inherent benevolence, unpretentiousness, and grace were evident to anyone who met her. But like all NFL owners, she was fiercely competitive, particularly when the Bears faced their ancient rival, the Green Bay Packers.

"She didn't like losing at all," explains Patrick McCaskey, who has served in numerous roles with the Bears for more than a half century. "She was very quiet. She lost with grace, but she didn't enjoy it."

"All losses were not good, but certainly a loss to the Packers was even worse," Brian McCaskey says. "She didn't show a lot of emotion vocally during games, but you could see in her body language, you could see on her face whether she was happy or not happy."

The 2025 Bears season was the first in which the McCaskey children were without their mom. It was difficult for all of them.

"Halas Hall is a gigantic space, nearly 350,000 square feet. And there are these very large video boards that are always running content throughout the building," Brian McCaskey says. "I can't tell you how many times I come around a corner and there's a video board with imagery of my mom, acknowledging her passing, and, of course, the patch (the Bears wore) on the jerseys with her initials. There are constant reminders everywhere I go in the building."

While faith, family, and their mother's values are bedrocks for the McCaskeys, football remains vital in their lives. The Bears' nine championships are the second-most in NFL history.

"My goal is to keep the Bears in the family until the second coming," Patrick McCaskey says, "and we're hopeful that the world will not end until the Bears have the most championships."

Virginia McCaskey would certainly share that sentiment.

Michael Eisen has covered the NFL since 1983, first as a newspaper reporter and then for 25 seasons as a league employee. He has attended approximately 700 NFL games, including 37 Super Bowls.

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In Memoriam

JIM IRSAY (1959-2025)

The beloved Colts owner and CEO built a champion, became a voice for mental health, and leaves a legacy of inspiration.

BY JJ STANKEVITZ

Tony Dungy pressed "play" on a message he saw come across his answering machine.

It was January 2002. Dungy had just been fired as the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The gravelly voice he heard come through the speaker of his phone was unmistakable.

It was Jim Irsay, the owner and CEO of the Indianapolis Colts, and he was in the market for a head coach.

"He's explaining why he wants me to coach the Indianapolis Colts, and he didn't talk about winning," Dungy recalls. "He talked about connecting with the community, about building something special, developing young men of strong character, and building a team that the city could be proud of."

Five years later, Dungy found himself on a stage at the RCA Dome with Irsay. A raucous sea of blue packed the stands, celebrating their team — and their city — after winning Super Bowl XLI. Dungy looked over to Irsay.

"Jim," Dungy said, "we did exactly what you talked about."

Through his vast and positive influence with the Colts, Irsay, who passed away on May 21, 2025, at the age of 65, transformed the city of Indianapolis. His vision for the club led to an era of unprecedented success on the field.

He didn't just bring a Lombardi Trophy to the city, he changed its skyline with the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium. And he didn't just build a winning franchise, he shifted the tectonic plates beneath one of the nation's most basketball-crazed states, which now is a hotbed for football.

Irsay started working for the Colts in 1972, when his father, Robert, acquired ownership of the club. He began as a ballboy; after Irsay graduated from SMU, he held several roles within the team's business and football operations departments. When the Colts moved from Baltimore in 1984, Irsay was named the youngest general manager — he was just 24 years old — in NFL history.

He assumed sole ownership of the club after his father's death in 1997, and he soon ushered in a golden era of the Colts. One of the many ways Irsay's stewardship manifested itself: Marvin Harrison, Edgerrin James, and Dwight Freeney all tapped him to introduce them for their inductions into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

And for Irsay, it was always about winning the right way, by caring for people, caring for his city, and caring for the team and sport he loved.

"He was the Horseshoe," former wide receiver Reggie Wayne says. "He was the heart of the city. J.I. was the glue that kept everything together."

Irsay also had an outsized influence on the NFL, bridging the gap between the early titans of the game — like George Halas, Wellington Mara, and Art Rooney — and the modern shifts of the sport. In the 1980s, he helped design the modern salary cap; later, he chaired the NFL Legislative Committee and was on the league's Finance Committee.

"His knowledge and connection with the history of the game was unmatched, growing up around football," Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning says. "That's the kind of owner you want to play for — someone who loves football, cares about the game, and cares about the Colts. It was an honor to play for him."

Irsay's legacy within football, though, is matched by his legacy of generosity and philanthropy.

In 2020, Irsay and his daughters launched Kicking The Stigma, a mental health initiative aimed at improving mental health awareness, research, and treatment — while breaking down the stigma so often associated with those disorders.

The issue of mental health was deeply personal to Irsay, who sought to make a profoundly positive impact through the organization. With the support of grants and personal donations by Irsay and his family, Kicking The Stigma has, to date, committed over $32 million toward those efforts. Among its achievements are the opening of the mental health-focused Irsay Institute at Indiana University in 2023 and over $7.2 million in Action Grants to expand mental health treatment and research at nonprofits in Indiana and beyond.

Irsay's own vulnerability and candor in supporting Kicking The Stigma, including as part of several nationwide PSAs, boosted those efforts. Colts players have been involved, too, showing mental health disorders can affect anyone — no matter how wealthy, tough, or successful they are.

"A billionaire, had everything in the world, owned the Colts, had everything that a man and a human could want, but he was just so real, and he was just so authentic all the time — good times, bad times," former Colts head coach Chuck Pagano says.

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MICHAEL HICKEY/GETTY IMAGES

Irsay's legacy of giving, though, involved countless examples of smaller, thoughtful acts. Ask around Indianapolis and you're bound to quickly find someone who was personally helped by Irsay, whether it was through financial support while going through a difficult time or through aiding several community organizations.

"The world is full of people who benefited from his generosity," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says.

"I don't know that I've been around a human who was more generous than Jim Irsay," adds former Colts Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday.

But the part of Irsay's legacy he was proudest of was his three daughters: Carlie Irsay-Gordon, Casey Foyt, and Kalen Jackson. Like Irsay did as a youth, his daughters immersed themselves in all facets of the Colts, developing a deep care for the franchise, its players, and those who represent the Horseshoe. Following his death, they assumed the title of owner: Irsay-Gordon is the Colts' owner and CEO; Foyt is the Colts' owner and executive vice president; and Jackson is the Colts' owner, chief brand officer, and president of the Indianapolis Colts Foundation.

And, inspired by their father, Irsay's daughters not only want to win, they want to do so by inspiring, uniting, and entertaining while winning the right way.

Just like Irsay told Dungy was his mission on that voicemail two-and-a-half decades ago.

"He cared about everyone in the organization," Dungy says. "He cared about people's families, he cared about his city, he cared about the NFL. He just cared about everyone, and he showed it in a wonderful way day in and day out."

JJ Stankevitz is the Colts' team writer, stadium PA announcer, and host of The Colts Show Podcast. *His work can be found on Colts.com.*

BEYOND THE HORIZON

ACROSS CONTINENTS AND TIME ZONES, THE NFL IS ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES,

NFL teams played a record seven international games during the 2025 regular season, including a Week 4 clash between the Steelers and Vikings at Croke Park in Dublin, Ireland.

ZON

BY
NEIL REYNOLDS

DEVELOPING FUTURE STARS, AND CHARTING A COURSE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE.

Early in the second quarter of a Week 4 clash with the Minnesota Vikings, future Hall of Fame quarterback Aaron Rodgers delivered a perfect pass to wide receiver DK Metcalf, who split two defenders and raced down the left sideline for a stunning 80-yard touchdown for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

While the throw, catch, and run were things of beauty greeted with deafening roars and the waving of thousands of yellow and green Terrible Towels, the significance felt much greater than a mere six points being put on the scoreboard. It was a moment that announced the NFL's historic arrival in Dublin, Ireland, in emphatic fashion.

There was synergy to the play. Just as Rodgers was able to stretch the field with his perfect throw, the NFL is reaching beyond the United States with greater frequency and more ambition than ever before. Similar to how Metcalf broke the Minnesota defense, the NFL continues to knock down barriers when it comes to expanding the sport of football around the globe.

After Pittsburgh's 24-21 win, Rodgers couldn't help but be moved by what he saw — and felt — in Ireland that September afternoon.

"Somebody came back in our locker room at 11 a.m. and said, 'Man, there's a ton of people out there already,'" Rodgers reveals. "I was like, 'Yeah, we're not in the States anymore. This is a different type of fan.'

"I loved it. The whole experience was fantastic. Win or lose, I would have said the same thing because of the reception we got from the Irish people."

The NFL played a record seven international games in 2025, kicking off in São Paolo, Brazil, in Week 1 and ending with a mid-November visit to Spain. In between, there was the contest in Ireland, three in the United Kingdom, and another in Germany. The games in Dublin, Berlin, and Madrid marked the NFL's first regular-season visits to those cities.

Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president, club business, international, and league events, says, "This was an historic run. As we go around the world, you just feel the energy and momentum. We're not slowing down from here."

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin (left), quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8), and defensive tackle Cameron Heyward (97) acknowledge the fans following the team's win over the Vikings in Dublin.

With sold out crowds in those new cities and competitive games across the board (six of the games were decided by one score), the NFL is only likely to accelerate its international plans.

"It gives you the confidence to continue to drive forward," O'Reilly explains. "We have to get the core things right — making certain the teams have a great experience, making sure everything around the game is right. We were able to deliver on those things, so that gives us confidence as we go into 2026 when we will be playing a regular-season game farther away from a home market than ever before in Melbourne, Australia."

The Los Angeles Rams will serve as the designated home team for that game expected to be played in Week 1 next season.

"We're incredibly excited," O'Reilly says. "It is a sports-mad country that has great love for the NFL. Preparations are going well. That's a really important market for us. We now have an NFL Academy on the Gold Coast of Australia, we have great media distribution, and we have seen the growth of flag football. We're coming in with our biggest asset — a regular-season

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game — at a time when you're seeing movement in Australia overall."

With Australia joining the international party, there could be further expansion. A report from *Sports Business Journal* revealed ambitions to play as many as nine international games in 2026, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has spoken on several occasions about a potential 18-game regular season being key to future global plans.

"It allows us to open up new markets," Goodell says. "If you're going to be global, you have to do it beyond Europe and beyond the Americas. You need to reach into other areas and territories. Next year, we're going to Australia. We have plans to go to Asia shortly thereafter.

"The ownership is committed to being a global sports property. They have agreed that's the objective. We have set our sights on 16 (international) regular-season games. We will get there, I'm confident of that."

While new markets came on board in 2025, London reached a milestone in Week 5 as the contest between the Cleveland Browns and the Vikings was the 40th in the UK.

"That was a big one," O'Reilly acknowledges. "You have so much gratitude for the people who made that bold move to say, 'We're going to take our regular-season games to London.' We couldn't have been more proud of that milestone, and we have many more ahead of us."

Weeks 4 and 5 saw the Vikings become the first NFL team to have back-to-back regular-season games in two different European countries. Minnesota played in Dublin against the Steelers and then beat the Browns, 21-17, at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium a week later. Add in a Week 3 home win against Cincinnati, and the Vikings played in three different countries on three successive weekends.

"We always try to learn something from every single event and in everything we do," Goodell says. "Every step has been an evolution. I think that will open up new doors for us to be more creative in the way we structure and schedule our games in the future."

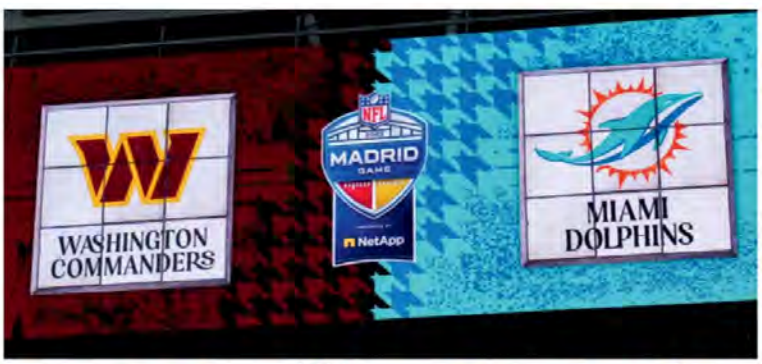
Iconic venues hosted the games in Berlin and Madrid. The Indianapolis Colts defeated the Atlanta Falcons, 31-25, in overtime at the Olympic Stadium, while the Miami Dolphins were 16-13 overtime winners over the Washington Commanders at Bernabéu Stadium — home of Real Madrid. A new stadium will enter the rotation in 2026 after the NFL struck a multi-year deal to play at Maracana Stadium in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

The venues in Germany and Spain made an impression on players and coaches from the competing teams.

Colts Austrian offensive tackle Bernhard Raimann stresses: "Frankfurt two years ago was insane, and the atmosphere was crazy again playing in the Olympic Stadium. It's such an historic stadium and a great place to play football. It was an unbelievable feeling."

After his team pulled out an overtime win in Madrid, Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel said, "To play

BELOW: Cornerback Kenny Moore II takes the field prior to the Colts game against the Falcons at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Germany. **BELOW RIGHT:** The NFL played its first regular-season game in Spain this season, a contest between the Commanders and Dolphins at Madrid's Bernabéu Stadium.



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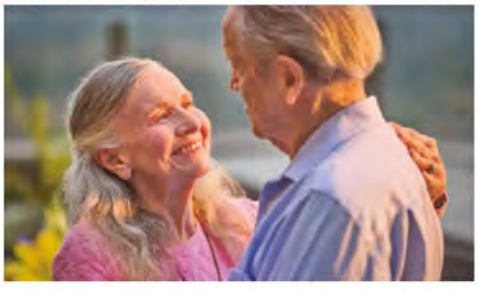

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here, to be the inaugural game, was a privilege. I think expanding the game is something that I and our guys feel fortunate to be a part of and is good for the health of the National Football League."

As the NFL continues to expand its international footprint, it does so with a commitment to bring more than just regular-season games.

"We don't want to be the circus," Goodell explains. "We want to put roots down, we want to be part of the communities, and we want to make a difference and an impact."

A successful example comes in the form of the NFL Academy high school program based in Loughborough in the United Kingdom. During an impressive season under former NFL assistant coach Steve Hagen, the Academy recorded a 34-21 victory over The Hun School of New Jersey, the top-ranked prep school in the United States in 2024. They also faced two high school powerhouses and more than held their own, narrowly falling, 41-38, to St. Thomas Aquinas at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium before losing, 41-24, to IMG Academy in Florida.

The high-level competition shone a spotlight on the NFL Academy's players with 11 student athletes committing to American college football programs in 2025. Austrian tight end Luca Wolf led the way with his recruitment to the University of Tennessee.

The former basketball player, who boasts just two years of football experience, says, "The NFL Academy has done a lot for me. It changed me as a person, and it evolved me as a player.

"We work with coaches who are used to transforming people who have never played football into athletes who are going to the NFL, coaches like Coach (Steve) Hagen, Coach George (Reynolds), and Coach (Kris) Durham. The coaching is elite.

"The Academy gave me the biggest opportunities in my life. Playing against schools like IMG and St. Thomas Aquinas, that is big-time competition and is essential if you want to put your film out there. The NFL Academy offers us the opportunity to compete against the best. I wouldn't be where I'm at right now without those American games."

"That's what it's all about," O'Reilly stresses. "To have Luca Wolf get an offer to play at the University of Tennessee, that's the goosebumps stuff."

The NFL is constantly seeking and plotting its next international opportunity. And, as we have seen in recent years, any plans discussed at the league level are quickly being turned into reality.

Goodell says: "You can't just think global; you have to do it."

Born in Austria, Luca Wolf attended the NFL Academy in the UK, where his skills at tight end earned him a scholarship to the University of Tennessee.

"We are fully committed to making this game global," adds O'Reilly. "That means ensuring our games are as accessible as possible through media, bringing our games to fans, and making flag football a global sport now that it's an Olympic sport.

"The commitment of the league — and I would emphasize the commitment of our 32 clubs — is really real. This is not going to slow down. The future is bright if you're an NFL fan around the world."

Neil Reynolds is the anchor of Sky Sports' television coverage of the NFL in the United Kingdom and also writes for NFL.com/UK and SkySports.com/nfl.

SEAN RYAN/AP IMAGES; COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE (inset)

NFL STANDINGS THROUGH WEEK 4

AFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Bills	**4-0-0**	**1.000**	**133**	**90**
Patriots	2-2-0	.500	102	81
Dolphins	1-3-0	.250	83	118
Jets	0-4-0	.000	90	120

AFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Steelers	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**96**	**98**
Bengals	2-2-0	.500	61	119
Ravens	1-3-0	.250	131	133
Browns	1-3-0	.250	56	102

AFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Colts	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**123**	**83**
Jaguars	3-1-0	.750	96	72
Texans	1-3-0	.250	64	51
Titans	0-4-0	.000	51	120

AFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Chargers	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**88**	**71**
Chiefs	2-2-0	.500	97	76
Broncos	2-2-0	.500	96	67
Raiders	1-3-0	.250	77	99

NFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Eagles	**4-0-0**	**1.000**	**108**	**88**
Commanders	2-2-0	.500	107	91
Cowboys	1-2-1	.375	114	132
Giants	1-3-0	.250	73	101

NFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Lions	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**137**	**88**
Packers	2-1-1	.625	104	84
Vikings	2-2-0	.500	102	80
Bears	2-2-0	.500	101	117

NFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Buccaneers	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**97**	**97**
Falcons	2-2-0	.500	76	86
Panthers	1-3-0	.250	75	95
Saints	0-4-0	.000	66	121

NFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
49ers	**3-1-0**	**.750**	**80**	**75**
Seahawks	3-1-0	.750	111	67
Rams	3-1-0	.750	100	81
Cardinals	2-2-0	.500	82	74

With QB Jalen Hurts at the controls, the Eagles' offense produced at key moments to propel the team's 4-0 start.

MATT SLOCUM/AP IMAGES

Eagles Enjoy Early Push

PICKING UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF, THE DEFENDING CHAMPS FIND SUCCESS IN ALL FACETS OF THE GAME — AND IN THE WIN COLUMN.

Fresh off their Super Bowl LIX championship, the Philadelphia Eagles continued to soar as the NFL's 106th season got underway. For the third time since 2021, they started out 4-0 — with three of those wins coming over 2024 playoff teams.

They began their title defense with a 24-20 triumph over Dallas, powered by quarterback Jalen Hurts, who completed 19 of 23 passes for 152 yards and rushed for a game-high 62 yards, including a pair of touchdowns. Philadelphia took the lead for good on Saquon Barkley's 10-yard TD run late in the second quarter, and its defense kept Dallas off the scoreboard in the second half.

"You're always looking for ways that you want your team to show their toughness and their physicality because that's the game of football," Eagles head coach Nick Sirianni said. "And I think we could see that. We talked about relentless effort all week."

Week 2 saw a Super Bowl rematch vs. the Chiefs, which went Philadelphia's way, 20-17, aided by touchdown runs from Barkley and Hurts, and a goal-line interception by Andrew Mukuba. A week later, the Eagles climbed out of a 19-point third-quarter hole to overtake the Rams, 33-27, with the biggest plays coming from Jalen Carter and Jordan Davis, who each blocked a fourth-quarter field goal attempt.

That standout special teams play continued against the Buccaneers, with Cameron Latu busting through the line to block a punt that Sydney Brown returned 35 yards for the game's first touchdown. Dallas Goedert caught a pair of TD passes, Barkley added a third-quarter scoring run, and Jihaad Campbell grabbed a late interception that helped secure the 31-25 win.

Travis Etienne (1) pulls away from the 49ers' defense to score on a 48-yard touchdown run during the Jaguars' Week 3 victory. Etienne had 124 rushing yards on the day.

"Another gritty win," said Hurts, who improved his personal winning streak to 18 in games that he had started and finished. "We know [Tampa Bay] has been a challenging environment. I'm proud of the way we competed. A lot we can improve on, but it's always good to get a win out there. They don't come easy."

WEEK 1: Amazing Endings

The season's first week delivered some fabulous finishes, with four teams scoring game-winning points in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter. The largest comeback came from Buffalo, which trailed the Ravens by 15 with under four minutes to play before rallying for a 41–40 victory. Josh Allen threw a 10-yard TD pass to Keon Coleman, and after Terrel Bernard recovered a Baltimore fumble deep in Ravens territory, Allen rushed for a 1-yard score that narrowed the deficit to two points. The Bills' defense then forced a punt, giving Allen time to execute a 66-yard drive that Matt Prater capped with a 32-yard field goal as time expired. "Josh, he's always been like that. He wants the ball in key moments of the game," said Bills head coach Sean McDermott. "That's what [the great ones] want, that's what they do. And he's never out of it in his mind." … Aaron Rodgers threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes and Chris Boswell kicked a go-ahead 60-yard field goal with just over a minute to play in the Steelers' 34–32 win over the Jets. … Jake Tonges put the 49ers in front with a 4-yard TD reception with 1:34 remaining and Nick Bosa forced and recovered a fumble on the ensuing drive to lift the 49ers over the Seahawks, 17–13. … The Vikings found themselves in a 17–6 hole entering the fourth quarter against the Bears before erupting for three touchdowns, with the go-ahead score coming on J.J. McCarthy's 27-yard pass to Aaron Jones on their way to a 27–24 triumph. … The NFL returned to São Paulo, Brazil, for the second consecutive year, where the Chargers used three Justin Herbert touchdown passes to hold off the Chiefs, 27–21.

Lions head coach Dan Campbell had his offense humming early in the 2025 season. Detroit scored a league-leading 137 points through Week 4.

WEEK 2: Indy Impresses Again

After scoring on all seven possessions in their Week 1 victory over Miami, the Colts' offense continued to roll, producing points the first three times they touched the ball vs. the Broncos. By doing that, Indianapolis became the first team in NFL history to score on each of its first 10 offensive possessions in a season. The Colts also became the first team in the Super Bowl era to not punt in either of their first two games, though they still needed Spencer Shrader's 45-yard field goal with no time left to prevail, 29–28. It was his fifth field goal of the game. "It's electric in there right now," Colts head coach Shane Steichen said of the team's locker room. "To win a game like that — Spencer did a hell of a job finishing it there with the kick. We found a way to do it." … In a game that saw six lead changes in the fourth quarter and overtime, matching the most in NFL history, the Cowboys edged the Giants, 40–37. Dak Prescott threw for 361 yards and two touchdowns in the victory, with his favorite target being CeeDee Lamb (9 receptions, 112 yards). … Lamar Jackson threw four touchdown passes, two of them to Devontez Walker, in the Ravens' 41–17 win over Cleveland. … Ja'Marr Chase had 14 receptions for 165 yards

KELLEY L. COX/AP IMAGES (Etienne); TERRANCE WILLIAMS/AP IMAGES (Campbell)

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Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 1/September 4-8

COWBOYS	20	DOLPHINS	8	**STEELERS**	**34**	LIONS	13
EAGLES	**24**	**COLTS**	**33**	JETS	32	**PACKERS**	**27**
CHIEFS	21*	PANTHERS	10	GIANTS	6	TEXANS	9
CHARGERS	**27**	**JAGUARS**	**26**	**COMMANDERS**	**21**	**RAMS**	**14**
BUCCANEERS	**23**	**RAIDERS**	**20**	TITANS	12	RAVENS	40
FALCONS	20	PATRIOTS	13	**BRONCOS**	**20**	**BILLS**	**41**
BENGALS	**17**	**CARDINALS**	**20**	**49ERS**	**17**	**VIKINGS**	**27**
BROWNS	16	SAINTS	13	SEAHAWKS	13	BEARS	24

*Played in São Paulo, Brazil

AFC OFFENSE
Josh Allen
QB, Bills

Led all Week 1 QBs with 394 passing yards and threw two TDs while rushing for two more in win over Ravens.

AFC DEFENSE
Foyesade Oluokun
LB, Jaguars

Totaled 10 tackles, a forced fumble, a pass defensed, and an interception in victory over Panthers.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Chris Boswell
K, Steelers

Made career-long 60-yard field goal with under two minutes to play for the go-ahead points in victory over Jets.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jacory Croskey-Merritt
RB, Commanders

Rushed for a game-high 82 yards, highlighted by a 42-yard run and a 6-yard touchdown, to help defeat Giants.

NFC OFFENSE
J.J. McCarthy
QB, Vikings

Became first starting QB since 1985 to overcome a 10-point deficit in fourth quarter of NFL debut and win in regulation.

NFC DEFENSE
Nate Landman
LB, Rams

Recorded 10 tackles and forced a red-zone fumble with 1:51 remaining to preserve victory over Texans.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Kameron Johnson
WR, Buccaneers

Had longest punt return of Week 1 (54 yards) and was on field for 12 special teams plays as a returner or gunner.

WEEK 2/September 11-15

COMMANDERS	18	BEARS	21	**SEAHAWKS**	**31**	**EAGLES**	**20**
PACKERS	**27**	**LIONS**	**52**	STEELERS	17	CHIEFS	17
BROWNS	17	**PATRIOTS**	**33**	**RAMS**	**33**	**FALCONS**	**22**
RAVENS	**41**	DOLPHINS	27	TITANS	19	VIKINGS	6
JAGUARS	27	**49ERS**	**26**	PANTHERS	22	**BUCCANEERS**	**20**
BENGALS	**31**	SAINTS	21	**CARDINALS**	**27**	TEXANS	19
GIANTS	37 (OT)	**BILLS**	**30**	BRONCOS	28	**CHARGERS**	**20**
COWBOYS	**40**	JETS	10	**COLTS**	**29**	RAIDERS	9

AFC OFFENSE
Jonathan Taylor
RB, Colts

Totaled a Week 2-best 215 scrimmage yards (165 rushing 50 receiving) while catching 7-yard TD pass in win vs. Broncos.

AFC DEFENSE
Roquan Smith
LB, Ravens

Made 15 tackles – three of those for a loss – and recorded a 63-yard fumble-recovery TD as part of victory over Cleveland.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Antonio Gibson
RB, Patriots

Had 171 kickoff-return yards, including a 90-yard touchdown to give his team a fourth-quarter lead, en route to win at Miami.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Tyler Warren
TE, Colts

Caught 4 passes for 79 yards, including a 41-yard reception, in victory over Broncos.

NFC OFFENSE
Jared Goff
QB, Lions

Threw for 334 yards and equaled a career-high with five touchdown passes for a 156.0 passer rating while leading the victory over Bears.

NFC DEFENSE
Fred Warner
LB, 49ers

Contributed 11 tackles along with a pass defensed, forced fumble, and fumble recovery to help overcome Saints.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Brandon Aubrey
K, Cowboys

Kicked third-longest field goal in NFL history (64 yards) to force overtime and then made game-winning 46-yarder to defeat Giants.

and one touchdown to help the Bengals improve to 2-0 with a 31-27 win over the Jaguars. ... Bijan Robinson rushed for 143 yards while Zach Harrison had 1.5 sacks and a forced fumble, powering the Falcons past the Vikings, 22-6. ... Rachaad White's 2-yard TD run with six seconds remaining gave Tampa Bay a 20-19 win over the Texans.

WEEK 3: Lions Roar Past Ravens

Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery each scored twice and Al-Quadin Muhammad collected 2.5 of the Lions' seven sacks as Detroit clipped the Ravens, 38-30. Gibbs' 4-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter broke a 21-21 tie, while Montgomery, who finished with 151 rushing yards, added a late 31-yard TD burst that made it a two-score game. One play earlier, the Lions, leading 31-24 at the time, converted a fourth-and-2 near midfield to keep possession. "I just thought it was an outstanding team effort. I was proud of the players, I was proud of the coaches," said Detroit head coach Dan Campbell. "It's just a huge win." ... The Buccaneers became the first team in the Super Bowl era to record a game-winning score in the final minute in each of their first three games of a season. This time it came against the Jets, who had moved in front with 1:49 to play on Will McDonald's 50-yard return of a blocked field-goal attempt, only to see Baker Mayfield drive the Bucs 47 yards in seven plays to set up Chase McLaughlin's 36-yard field goal as time expired for a 29-27 win. ... Aaron Rodgers threw his 510th career TD pass, moving into fourth place on the NFL's all-time list, in the Steelers' 21-14 win at New England. ... Carolina forced three turnovers, including an interception by Chau Smith-Wade that he brought back 11 yards for a touchdown, as part of a 30-0 shutout of Atlanta. ... The Chargers scored 10 points in the final 2:37 of the fourth quarter — on Justin Herbert's 20-yard TD pass to Keenan Allen and Cameron Dicker's 43-yard field goal — to rally past the Broncos, 23-20.

NICK WASS/AP IMAGES (Smith, Croskey-Merritt); MICHAEL CONROY (Warren)

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Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 3/September 18-22

DOLPHINS	21	BENGALS	10	**COLTS**	**41**	COWBOYS	14
BILLS	**31**	**VIKINGS**	**48**	TITANS	20	**BEARS**	**31**
FALCONS	0	**STEELERS**	**21**	RAIDERS	24	CARDINALS	15
PANTHERS	**30**	PATRIOTS	14	**COMMANDERS**	**41**	**49ERS**	**16**
PACKERS	10	RAMS	26	BRONCOS	20	**CHIEFS**	**22**
BROWNS	**13**	**EAGLES**	**33**	**CHARGERS**	**23**	GIANTS	9
TEXANS	10	JETS	27	SAINTS	13	**LIONS**	**38**
JAGUARS	**17**	**BUCCANEERS**	**29**	**SEAHAWKS**	**41**	RAVENS	30

AFC OFFENSE
Jonathan Taylor
RB, Colts

Rushed for three TDs — one of those on a 46-yard run — while totaling 118 scrimmage yards in victory over Titans as Colts improved to 3-0 for first time since 2009.

AFC DEFENSE
Derwin James
S, Chargers

Led all Week 3 defenders with four tackles for loss and finished with 12 tackles and a sack as part of win over Broncos.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Andre Szmyt
K, Browns

Converted a 55-yard field goal as time expired, just minutes after hitting a 35-yarder, that provided the winning points against Packers.

NFC OFFENSE
Caleb Williams
QB, Bears

Completed 19 of 28 passes for 298 yards and four touchdowns with no interceptions, producing a 142.6 passer rating, in victory over Dallas.

NFC DEFENSE
Isaiah Rodgers
CB, Vikings

Returned an interception 87 yards for a touchdown and had a 66-yard fumble return TD — both in the first half — of win vs. Bengals.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Jordan Davis
DT, Eagles

Blocked Rams' game-winning field-goal attempt as time expired and returned it 61 yards for a touchdown, capping a comeback from 19-point second-half deficit.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jaylin Lane
WR/PR, Commanders

Brought back a punt 90 yards for a third-quarter touchdown in victory over Las Vegas.

WEEK 4/September 25-29

SEAHAWKS	**23**	BROWNS	10	**EAGLES**	**31**	**BEARS**	**25**
CARDINALS	20	**LIONS**	**34**	BUCCANEERS	25	RAIDERS	24
VIKINGS	21	TITANS	0	COLTS	20	PACKERS	**40** (OT)
STEELERS	**24***	**TEXANS**	**26**	**RAMS**	**27**	COWBOYS	**40**
COMMANDERS	27	PANTHERS	13	**JAGUARS**	**26**	JETS	21
FALCONS	**34**	**PATRIOTS**	**42**	49ERS	21	**DOLPHINS**	**27**
SAINTS	19	CHARGERS	18	RAVENS	20	BENGALS	3
BILLS	**31**	**GIANTS**	**21**	**CHIEFS**	**37**	**BRONCOS**	**28**

*Played in Dublin, Ireland

AFC OFFENSE
Patrick Mahomes
QB, Chiefs

Completed 25 of 37 passes for 270 yards and four touchdowns, earning a 124.8 passer rating, in victory over Baltimore.

AFC DEFENSE
Devin Lloyd
LB, Jaguars

Led winning effort over 49ers with eight tackles, two interceptions, and a tackle for loss.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Marcus Jones
CB, Patriots

Set team single-game record with 167 punt-return yards, including an 87-yard punt-return touchdown in first quarter of victory vs. Carolina.

NFC OFFENSE
Puka Nacua
WR, Rams

Caught 13 passes for career-high 170 yards, including a 9-yard TD, to help Rams hand Colts first loss of the season.

NFC DEFENSE
Quinyon Mitchell
CB, Eagles

Defensed five passes and allowed only two receptions for six yards on nine targets to aid Eagles' victory over Tampa Bay.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Josh Blackwell
DB, Bears

Blocked potential game-winning 54-yard field-goal attempt with 38 seconds remaining that preserved one-point victory over Raiders.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Woody Marks
RB, Texans

Scored two touchdowns while rushing for 69 yards and catching four passes for 50 yards to spark win over Titans.

WEEK 4: Rams Rebound

Los Angeles struck for a pair of touchdowns in the final minutes of the fourth quarter, the go-ahead score coming on Matthew Stafford's 88-yard touchdown pass to Tutu Atwell with 1:33 to play, to edge the previously undefeated Colts, 27-20. It was the longest TD pass of Stafford's career and marked the longest game-winning scrimmage touchdown in the final two minutes of a game since 1960. "I was so proud of [Tutu], so happy for him," Stafford said. "He comes to work every day to do whatever is asked of him, and he made the biggest play in the biggest moment." ... The Bills improved to 4-0 for the first time since 2020, defeating the Saints, 31-19. James Cook rushed for 117 yards and became the sixth player in the Super Bowl era with at least 100 scrimmage yards and a rushing touchdown in each of his team's first four games of a season. ... Rookie QB Jaxson Dart starred in his first career start, throwing for one touchdown and rushing for another as the Giants edged the Chargers, 21-18. With the win, the Giants became the first 0-3 team to defeat a 3-0 team since the 2008 season. ... The NFL's first regular-season game in Dublin was won by the Steelers, 24-21 over the Vikings, behind DK Metcalf's 80-yard TD reception and a sack and interception from T.J. Watt. ... Drake Maye posted a 155.6 passer rating — completing 14 of 17 passes for 203 yards with two touchdowns — in the Patriots' 42-13 victory over Carolina. ... Patrick Mahomes threw for four touchdowns in the Chiefs' 37-20 win over the Ravens and, by doing so, reached 250 career TD passes faster than any player in NFL history (116 games). ... Dallas and Green Bay combined to score on the game's final nine possessions, a frenzy that included a 31-point fourth quarter, while playing to a 40-40 tie.

KYUSUNG GONG/AP IMAGES (Nacua); NICK WASS/AP IMAGES (Lane); MARIA LYSAKER/AP IMAGES (Marks)

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NFL STANDINGS THROUGH WEEK 9

AFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Patriots	**7-2-0**	**.778**	**237**	**169**
Bills	6-2-0	.750	235	167
Dolphins	2-7-0	.222	180	243
Jets	1-7-0	.125	168	221

AFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Steelers	**5-3-0**	**.625**	**202**	**195**
Ravens	3-5-0	.375	202	216
Bengals	3-6-0	.333	216	300
Browns	2-6-0	.250	126	184

AFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Colts	**7-2-0**	**.778**	**290**	**181**
Jaguars	5-3-0	.625	176	184
Texans	3-5-0	.375	168	121
Titans	1-8-0	.111	130	257

AFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Broncos	**7-2-0**	**.778**	**225**	**166**
Chargers	6-3-0	.667	215	193
Chiefs	5-4-0	.556	235	159
Raiders	2-6-0	.250	132	210

NFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Eagles	**6-2-0**	**.750**	**208**	**185**
Cowboys	3-5-1	.389	263	277
Commanders	3-6-0	.333	201	236
Giants	2-7-0	.222	197	249

NFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Packers	**5-2-1**	**.688**	**206**	**166**
Lions	5-3-0	.625	239	178
Bears	5-3-0	.625	215	227
Vikings	4-4-0	.500	182	186

NFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Buccaneers	**6-2-0**	**.750**	**197**	**178**
Panthers	5-4-0	.556	170	205
Falcons	3-5-0	.375	143	178
Saints	1-8-0	.111	138	243

NFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Seahawks	**6-2-0**	**.750**	**231**	**150**
Rams	6-2-0	.750	209	127
49ers	6-3-0	.667	194	188
Cardinals	3-5-0	.375	180	171

J.K. Dobbins (27) was part of a potent ground game driving Denver's early-season success. He had a pair of 100-yard rushing efforts, including 111 yards in a Week 8 win over Dallas.

ERIC GAY/AP IMAGES

Broncos Riding High at Midseason

COMEBACK WINS FORM CENTERPIECE TO 7-2 START AS TEAM TAKES TOP SPOT IN AFC WEST.

From handing the Eagles their first setback of the season to scoring a triumph overseas, and from piling up the points in a pair of home wins to putting together yet another fourth-quarter rally, Denver checked all the boxes of a contender through the first half of the 2025 NFL season.

The Broncos' Week 5 victory may have been the most clear-cut example of their potential as they scored 18 fourth-quarter points to rally past host Philadelphia, 21-17.

"We kind of had this sense that we just needed one drive (to get going). Let's go down the field, one play at a time, let's put a drive together," said quarterback Bo Nix (24 of 39, 242 yards, 1 TD), whose 11-yard touchdown pass to Evan Engram and subsequent 2-point conversion toss to Troy Franklin moved Denver in front with 7:43 to play.

From there, the Broncos traveled to London for a showdown with the Jets. Jonathon Cooper had two of the team's nine sacks, part of a defensive effort that allowed only 82 total yards, and Wil Lutz kicked the go-ahead 27-yard field goal with just over five minutes remaining in a 13-11 victory.

No comeback was more improbable, however, than what happened in Week 7, a 33-32 win over the Giants, when Denver became the first team since 1970 to rally from a deficit of 18 or more points with six minutes remaining and win in regulation. Nix threw for two touchdowns and ran for two others, and Lutz kicked the game-winning 39-yard field goal as time expired.

An explosive 44-24 victory over Dallas followed — Denver's ninth in a row at home — with RJ Harvey scoring three touchdowns, J.K. Dobbins rushing for 111 yards, and rookie Jahdae Barron grabbing his first career interception.

"This is what we've been chasing," right guard Quinn Meinerz said. "Complementary football on offense, defense, and special teams. There are still things that we need to work through, but this is what we're capable of."

It was a different path but the same result in Week 9 as the Broncos gutted out an 18-15 victory at Houston. It was Denver's fourth win of the season by four points or fewer, and the team improved to 4-0 in games it trailed entering the fourth quarter.

Drake Maye had the Patriots' fortunes pointing up, with 17 TD passes and only four interceptions through nine games.

WEEK 5: No One's Perfect

Hours after the Broncos knocked off the Eagles, the Patriots defeated the league's final unbeaten team, the Buffalo Bills, 23-20, on *Sunday Night Football*. Stefon Diggs caught 10 passes for 146 yards, Rhamondre Stevenson rushed for a pair of touchdowns, and Andy Borregales made a 52-yard field goal with 20 seconds remaining that snapped a 20-20 tie. "It was lit, prime time," said Diggs, who helped New England improve to 3-2 and win back-to-back games for the first time since the 2022 season. "It was electrifying. I knew it was going to be a test for us." ... Dak Prescott threw a pair of TD passes to Jake Ferguson in Dallas' 37-22 win over the Jets. ... Jonathan Taylor had his second three-rushing touchdown game of the season, sparking the Colts' 40-6 defeat of the Raiders. ... Tennessee rallied from 18 points down to stun Arizona, 22-21, getting fourth-quarter TDs on Tony Pollard's 1-yard run and Tyler Lockett's end-zone fumble recovery, and scoring the winning points on Joey Slye's 29-yard field goal as time expired. ... C.J. Stroud directed scoring drives on all eight possessions he played, part of a day that saw him complete 23 of 27 passes for 244 yards and four touchdowns, to power the Texans past Baltimore, 44-10.

WEEK 6: Carolina Clutch

Rico Dowdle totaled 239 yards from scrimmage (183 rushing, 56 receiving), including a 36-yard touchdown catch, as Carolina edged Dallas, 30-27. With it, Dowdle — who spent five seasons with Dallas — set a franchise record and became the first NFL player since 2020 with at least 225 scrimmage yards and a touchdown in consecutive games. "It was personal for him, and we knew that. We want to have his back," said Panthers quarterback Bryce Young, who completed 17 of 25 passes for 199 yards with three TDs. "That's our brother, and if it's important to him, it's important to us." Ryan Fitzgerald won it for Carolina, kicking a tie-breaking 33-yard field goal as time expired to cap a drive that covered 15 plays and took

Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 5/October 2-6

49ERS	**26**	RAIDERS	6	**TITANS**	**22**	**PATRIOTS**	**23**
RAMS	23(OT)	**COLTS**	**40**	CARDINALS	21	BILLS	20
VIKINGS	**21**	GIANTS	14	**BUCCANEERS**	**38**	CHIEFS	28
BROWNS	17	**SAINTS**	**26**	SEAHAWKS	35	**JAGUARS**	**31**
TEXANS	**44**	**COWBOYS**	**37**	**LIONS**	**37**		
RAVENS	10	JETS	22	BENGALS	24		
DOLPHINS	24	**BRONCOS**	**21**	**COMMANDERS**	**27**		
PANTHERS	**27**	EAGLES	17	CHARGERS	10		

*Played in London, England

BYES: **BEARS, FALCONS, PACKERS, STEELERS**

AFC OFFENSE
C.J. Stroud
QB, Texans

Had AFC's highest completion percentage (23 of 27, 85.2) and passer rating (143.9) of the week, along with the most TD passes (4), in defeat of Ravens.

AFC DEFENSE
Nik Bonitto
LB, Broncos

Recorded four tackles and 2.5 sacks, including a sack in the final two minutes, to help complete comeback win over previously undefeated Eagles.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Chimere Dike
WR, Titans

Returned four kickoffs for 136 yards, among those a 65-yard return, and brought back three punts for 33 yards as part of win over Arizona.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jacory Croskey-Merritt
RB, Commanders

Rushed for 111 yards, averaged 7.9 yards per carry, and scored two TDs, one on a 5-yard run that put his team ahead for good, to lead victory over Chargers.

NFC OFFENSE
Rico Dowdle
RB, Panthers

Totaled 234 scrimmage yards (206 rushing, 28 receiving), highlighted by a fourth-quarter TD run, to rally team past Miami.

NFC DEFENSE
Kool-Aid McKinstry
CB, Saints

Defensed three passes and had two fourth-quarter interceptions in victory over Giants.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Eddy Piñeiro
K, 49ers

Converted all four field-goal attempts — including a 59-yarder — and both PATs in overtime win vs. Rams.

GREG M. COOPER/AP IMAGES (Maye); JESSIE ALCHEH/AP IMAGES (Piñeiro); CARRIE GIORDANO/AP IMAGES (Croskey-Merritt)

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the final 6:07 off the clock. ... D'Andre Swift rushed for 108 yards and added a 55-yard catch-and-run touchdown, and Nahshon Wright recovered a late fumble that led to Jake Moody's 38-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Bears a 25-24 win over Washington.

WEEK 7: 49ers Find a Way

Christian McCaffrey provided the power and points with 201 scrimmage yards and both of the 49ers' touchdowns in a 20-10 victory over the Falcons, San Francisco's fourth win in five games. McCaffrey's 1-yard TD run gave the 49ers a second-quarter lead, and he added an insurance score from 4 yards out in the fourth quarter, minutes after the team's defense stopped Atlanta on downs. "[Christian] is the most consistent player I've been around," 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He just allows you to stay on track. He gets every yard in the run game and more. What he does in the pass game, it's rare that you throw the ball to him and not get a completion." ... Matthew Stafford tied his career high with five touchdown passes — three of those to Davante Adams — in the Rams' 35-7 win over Jacksonville in London. ... DeVonta Smith totaled 183 receiving yards, highlighted by a 79-yard scoring catch, to help the Eagles hold off the Vikings, 28-22.

WEEK 8: Packers Pass Test

Led by Jordan Love, who completed 29 of 37 passes — including a franchise record-tying 20 consecutive completions — for 360 yards and three TDs, Green Bay improved to 5-1-1 with a 35-25 win at Pittsburgh. "He was on fire," Packers head coach Matt LaFleur said. "That's why we kept wanting to throw the football." Tucker Kraft caught seven passes for 143 yards and two touchdowns, and Green

Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 6/October 9-13

EAGLES	17	CARDINALS	27	**PATRIOTS**	**25**	LIONS	17
GIANTS	**34**	**COLTS**	**31**	SAINTS	19	**CHIEFS**	**30**
BRONCOS	**13**	**SEAHAWKS**	**20**	TITANS	10	BILLS	14
JETS	11*	JAGUARS	12	**RAIDERS**	**20**	**FALCONS**	**24**
RAMS	**17**	**CHARGERS**	**29**	49ERS	19	**BEARS**	**25**
RAVENS	3	DOLPHINS	27	**BUCCANEERS**	**30**	COMMANDERS	24
COWBOYS	27	BROWNS	9	BENGALS	18	*Played in London, England	
PANTHERS	**30**	**STEELERS**	**23**	**PACKERS**	**27**	**BYES: TEXANS, VIKINGS**	

AFC OFFENSE
Patrick Mahomes
QB, Chiefs

Accounted for four touchdowns — throwing for three and rushing for one — as part of a 257-yard passing performance to spark win over Lions.

AFC DEFENSE
Jonathon Cooper
LB, Broncos

Recorded five tackles, had two of his team's nine sacks, and was credited with a tackle for loss to lead a stellar defensive showing vs. Jets.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Cameron Dicker
K, Chargers

Converted all five field-goal attempts — the last of those the game-winner from 35 yards in the final seconds of regulation — in victory over Miami.

NFC OFFENSE
Bijan Robinson
RB, Falcons

Totaled six receptions, 238 scrimmage yards (170 rushing, 68 receiving), and scored on an 81-yard TD run to help defeat Buffalo.

NFC DEFENSE
Jamel Dean
CB, Buccaneers

Big all-around effort as part of win over 49ers — with four tackles, a sack, forced fumble, and interception.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Ryan Fitzgerald
K, Panthers

Was 3-for-3 on field goals, hitting from 31, 55, and 33 yards, including the tie-breaker as time expired to defeat Dallas.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Tetairoa McMillan
WR, Panthers

Caught touchdown passes of 19 and 2 yards — the latter giving Carolina a fourth-quarter lead — against Cowboys.

WEEK 7/October 16-20

STEELERS	31	RAIDERS	0	GIANTS	32	FALCONS	10
BENGALS	**33**	**CHIEFS**	**31**	**BRONCOS**	**33**	**49ERS**	**20**
RAMS	**35**	**EAGLES**	**28**	**COLTS**	**38**	BUCCANEERS	9
JAGUARS	7*	VIKINGS	22	CHARGERS	24	**LIONS**	**24**
SAINTS	14	**PANTHERS**	**13**	**PACKERS**	**27**	TEXANS	19
BEARS	**26**	JETS	6	CARDINALS	23	**SEAHAWKS**	**27**
DOLPHINS	6	**PATRIOTS**	**31**	COMMANDERS	22	*Played in London, England	
BROWNS	**31**	TITANS	13	**COWBOYS**	**44**	**BYES: BILLS, RAVENS**	

AFC OFFENSE
Ja'Marr Chase
WR, Bengals

Registered a Week 7-best and franchise single-game record 16 receptions for 161 yards and a touchdown in comeback victory over Steelers.

AFC DEFENSE
K'Lavon Chaisson
LB, Patriots

Had three tackles, two sacks, and recovered a fumble for a touchdown in win at Tennessee, becoming first player with two sacks and a fumble-recovery TD in a game since 2019.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Grant Delpit
S, Browns

In win over Miami, contributed two special teams tackles and was the only player on the week to force a fumble on special teams.

NFC OFFENSE
Christian McCaffrey
RB, 49ers

Finished with seven receptions, 201 scrimmage yards (129 rushing, 72 receiving), and two rushing touchdowns in win over Atlanta.

NFC DEFENSE
Micah Parsons
DL, Packers

Totaled five tackles, four tackles for loss, and a career-high three sacks — his 16th career game with multiple sacks — to lead winning effort vs. Arizona.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Sam Martin
P, Panthers

Placed four of his six punts inside the 20-yard line, including one inside the 10 and another inside the 5, and had a long punt of 68 yards, as part of win over Jets.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Oronde Gadsden II
TE, Chargers

Big effort vs. Colts with seven receptions for 164 yards, highlighted by a 15-yard TD catch.

PAUL JASIENSK/AP IMAGES (Parsons); JACOB KUPFERMAN/AP IMAGES (McMillan); JEVONE MOORE/GETTY IMAGES (Gadsden II)

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Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 8/October 23-27

VIKINGS	10	**JETS**	**39**	**BUCCANEERS**	**23**	**PACKERS**	**35**
CHARGERS	**37**	BENGALS	38	SAINTS	3	STEELERS	25
DOLPHINS	**34**	49ERS	15	COWBOYS	24	COMMANDERS	7
FALCONS	10	**TEXANS**	**26**	**BRONCOS**	**44**	**CHIEFS**	**28**
BEARS	16	BROWNS	13	TITANS	14		
RAVENS	**30**	**PATRIOTS**	**32**	**COLTS**	**38**		
BILLS	**40**	GIANTS	20				
PANTHERS	9	**EAGLES**	**38**				

BYES: CARDINALS, JAGUARS, LIONS, RAIDERS, RAMS, SEAHAWKS

AFC OFFENSE
Jordan Love
QB, Packers

As part of victory at Pittsburgh, became first QB in league history with 20 consecutive completions, 350+ passing yards, at least three TD passes, and not be sacked in a game.

AFC DEFENSE
Jordyn Brooks
LB, Dolphins

Recorded 10 tackles, including three tackles for loss, and a sack in win at Atlanta, finishing week as only player with 10 tackles and a sack.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Isaiah Williams
WR, Jets

Returned five kickoffs for 132 yards and three punts for 38 yards — including a Week 8 league-best 21-yard punt return — in comeback win vs. Bengals.

NFC OFFENSE
Jordan Love
QB, Packers

As part of victory at Pittsburgh, became first QB in league history with 20 consecutive completions, 350+ passing yards, at least three TD passes, and not be sacked in a game.

NFC DEFENSE
Anthony Nelson
LB, Buccaneers

Had two sacks, a forced fumble, and returned an interception for a touchdown in win over Saints.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Chase McLaughlin
K, Buccaneers

Converted three 50-yard field goals (52, 54, 55) and both of his PATs as part of victory at New Orleans.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
RJ Harvey
RB, Broncos

Scored three touchdowns, including a 40-yard TD run — the longest by a Broncos player since 2021 — in win over Dallas.

WEEK 9/October 30-November 3

RAVENS	**28**	**BRONCOS**	**18**	**CHARGERS**	**27**	CHIEFS	21
DOLPHINS	6	TEXANS	15	TITANS	20	**BILLS**	**28**
BEARS	**47**	FALCONS	23	SAINTS	10	**SEAHAWKS**	**38**
BENGALS	42	**PATRIOTS**	**24**	**RAMS**	**34**	COMMANDERS	14
VIKINGS	**27**	**49ERS**	**34**	**JAGUARS**	**30** (OT)	**CARDINALS**	**27**
LIONS	24	GIANTS	24	RAIDERS	29	COWBOYS	17
PANTHERS	**16**	COLTS	20				
PACKERS	13	**STEELERS**	**27**				

BYES: BROWNS, BUCCANEERS, EAGLES, JETS

AFC OFFENSE
Lamar Jackson
QB, Ravens

Had 12th career game with four TD passes and no interceptions, part of an 18-of-23, 204-yard performance in victory at Miami.

AFC DEFENSE
Alex Highsmith
LB, Steelers

Gave a standout defensive effort to spark win over Colts, contributing two sacks, three tackles for loss, a forced fumble, and a pass defensed.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Cam Little
K, Jaguars

Set NFL record with 68-yard field goal and later added a 48-yard FG that forced overtime in eventual win at Las Vegas.

NFC OFFENSE
Colston Loveland
TE, Bears

Huge effort vs. Bengals with six receptions for 118 yards and two touchdowns, including game-winning 58-yard TD grab with 17 seconds remaining.

NFC DEFENSE
Tre'Von Moehrig
S, Panthers

Keyed victory at Green Bay with five tackles, two tackles for loss, two passes defensed, and an interception that he returned 36 yards.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Levi Drake Rodriguez
DL, Vikings

Blocked a fourth-quarter field-goal attempt that kept team ahead in key divisional win over Lions.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jalon Walker
LB, Falcons

Had five tackles, including two for a loss, two sacks, a forced fumble, and a pass breakup as part of stellar effort vs. New England.

Bay took the lead for good on Josh Jacobs' 3-yard TD run to open the fourth quarter as it won at Pittsburgh for the first time since 1970. ... The Colts won their fourth straight game and improved to an AFC-leading 7-1, their best start since 2009, with a 38-14 victory over Tennessee. ... The Jets overcame a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to secure a 39-38 win over Cincinnati. Breece Hall rushed for 133 yards and two TDs, and capped the rally by throwing a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mason Taylor with 2:00 remaining.

WEEK 9: Stunning Sequence

Over the final two minutes of their game at Cincinnati, the Bears went from what looked like a certain victory to likely defeat to a dramatic 47-42 win that tightened the NFC North race. Chicago held a 41-27 lead before the Bengals' Joe Flacco threw a 23-yard scoring pass to Noah Fant with 1:47 to play, followed by a 9-yard TD strike to Andrei Iosivas that put the home team ahead. But the Bears had the final answer when Caleb Williams connected with Colston Loveland, who broke free from two defenders for a 58-yard touchdown reception with 25 seconds left. "Today we had to put up a bunch of points. That builds confidence (for our defense) knowing that we have their back," said Williams, who became the first player in NFL history with at least 275 passing yards, 50 rushing yards, and 20 receiving yards in the same game. ... Drake Maye passed for 259 yards and two TDs with a 102.5 passer rating in New England's 24-23 victory over Atlanta, becoming the first player under age 24 to record at least 200 passing yards and a passer rating of 100 or higher in eight consecutive contests. ... Josh Allen ran for a pair of touchdowns, including the 78th of his career to set the NFL record for most rushing TDs by a quarterback, in the Bills' 28-21 win over Kansas City.

JEFF DEAN/AP IMAGES (Loveland); DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP IMAGES (Harvey); ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP IMAGES (Walker)

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NFL STANDINGS THROUGH WEEK 14

AFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Patriots	**11-2-0**	**.846**	**351**	**241**
Bills	9-4-0	.692	376	293
Dolphins	6-7-0	.462	281	296
Jets	3-10-0	.231	256	349

AFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Steelers	**7-6-0**	**.538**	**308**	**311**
Ravens	6-7-0	.462	311	320
Bengals	4-9-0	.308	314	413
Browns	3-10-0	.231	223	301

AFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Jaguars	**9-4-0**	**.692**	**328**	**272**
Texans	8-5-0	.615	283	208
Colts	8-5-0	.615	376	285
Titans	2-11-0	.154	201	357

AFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Broncos	**11-2-0**	**.846**	**308**	**235**
Chargers	9-4-0	.692	299	271
Chiefs	6-7-0	.462	315	252
Raiders	2-11-0	.154	196	332

NFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Eagles	**8-5-0**	**.615**	**289**	**271**
Cowboys	6-6-1	.500	381	386
Commanders	3-10-0	.231	262	354
Giants	2-11-0	.154	279	367

NFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Packers	**9-3-1**	**.731**	**322**	**247**
Bears	9-4-0	.692	334	335
Lions	8-5-0	.615	394	304
Vikings	5-8-0	.385	255	281

NFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Buccaneers	**7-6-0**	**.538**	**299**	**325**
Panthers	7-6-0	.538	247	297
Falcons	4-9-0	.308	252	313
Saints	3-10-0	.231	206	315

NFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Rams	**10-3-0**	**.769**	**379**	**227**
Seahawks	10-3-0	.769	387	226
49ers	9-4-0	.692	307	269
Cardinals	3-10-0	.231	282	348

Mike Vrabel, a three-time Super Bowl champion as a player with the Patriots, was rekindling title thoughts in his first season as the team's head coach.

GREG M. COOPER/AP IMAGES

It's a New Day in New England

LONGEST WINNING STREAK IN A DECADE VAULTS PATRIOTS TO THE LEAGUE'S BEST RECORD.

Ignited by a dynamic young quarterback delivering sooner-than-expected success, the Patriots were evoking memories of a breakthrough season a quarter century ago that ended with the franchise's first Super Bowl championship.

Their 33-15 victory over the Giants in Week 13 made them the league's first team to reach 11 wins on the season, an effort led by second-year quarterback Drake Maye, who continued his ascent by throwing for 282 yards and two touchdowns in the win.

"Just trying to be the face, trying to be the conductor," Maye said of his role. "Trying to want the pressure. You want the ball in my hands."

Helping grow the team's winning streak to 10 games — its longest since the 2015 campaign — was a 28-23 triumph at Tampa Bay in Week 10 that featured a pair of long touchdown runs (69 and 55 yards) by rookie TreVeyon Henderson. He scored three times the following week in a 27-14 victory over the Jets, which ensured the Patriots of their first winning season since 2021.

"It's a journey," Henderson said. "The NFL comes with a lot of highs and lows. The biggest thing is the preparation going into each week, with the reps that we have (and) just trying to take advantage of them."

That journey included a comeback win over the Bengals in Week 12. New England found itself in an early 10-point hole before Maye (22 of 35, 294 yards) put the team on the board with a 28-yard TD pass to Hunter Henry. The Patriots then took the lead on a second-quarter interception-return touchdown by Marcus Jones. Andy Borregales tacked on four field goals to complete the scoring in the 26-20 win.

Through 13 games, Maye led the NFL both in passing yards (3,412) and passer rating (111.9).

WEEK 10:
Texas-Sized Comeback

A season full of big fourth-quarter rallies added another, with the Texans erupting for 26 unanswered points to storm past the Jaguars, 36-29, in an AFC South clash. Houston trailed, 29-10, before QB Davis Mills threw two touchdown passes in the final quarter and rushed 14 yards for the go-ahead score with 37 seconds remaining. "I've always had the mentality to stay confident regardless of what happened on the play before," Mills said. "It's kind of like the old basketball mentality: shooters shoot. If you stop, you're not going to see shots go in." Mills connected with Jayden Higgins and Dalton Schultz on the TDs, and after the Houston defense forced a three-and-out, drove his team 93 yards to take the lead. Sheldon Rankins then accounted for the Texans' final points with a 32-yard fumble-return touchdown. ... De'Von Achane totaled 225 scrimmage yards (174 rushing, 51 receiving) and ran for a pair of touchdowns in the Dolphins' 30-13 win over Buffalo. ... In the Rams' 42-26 victory at San Francisco, Matthew Stafford threw for 280 yards and became the first player in NFL history with at least four touchdowns and no interceptions in three consecutive games. ... Seattle's Sam Darnold threw for 178 yards, including a 43-yard TD strike to Jaxon Smith-Njigba, in a 44-22 win over Arizona.

Jahmyr Gibbs (0) continued to be a touchdown machine for the Lions, scoring three times in victories over the Giants and the Cowboys.

WEEK 11:
Rams Tough It Out

With the top spot in the NFC West on the line, the Rams came up big on defense to edge the Seahawks, 21-19, for their fifth straight win. Kamren Kinchens had two of the team's four interceptions, including one early in the first quarter to set up Kyren Williams' short touchdown run. "Everybody wants to test us, maybe because of our (strong pass) rush," Kinchens said. "But they don't know how good the secondary is." Offensively, Davante Adams had his 1,000th career reception — on a 1-yard scoring grab — and became the third player ever with 10+ touchdown receptions in a season for three

Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 10/November 6-10

RAIDERS	7	JAGUARS	29	**PATRIOTS**	**28**	STEELERS	10
BRONCOS	**10**	**TEXANS**	**36**	BUCCANEERS	23	**CHARGERS**	**25**
FALCONS	25	BILLS	13	CARDINALS	22	**EAGLES**	**10**
COLTS	**31** (OT)*	**DOLPHINS**	**30**	**SEAHAWKS**	**44**	PACKERS	7
SAINTS	**17**	**RAVENS**	**27**	**RAMS**	**42**		
PANTHERS	7	VIKINGS	19	49ERS	26		
GIANTS	20	BROWNS	20	**LIONS**	**44**		
BEARS	**24**	**JETS**	**27**	COMMANDERS	22		

*Played in Berlin, Germany

BYES: BENGALS, CHIEFS, COWBOYS, TITANS

AFC OFFENSE
Jonathan Taylor
RB, Colts

Career-high and franchise-record 286 scrimmage yards (244 rushing, 42 receiving), and had his fourth game of the season with three rushing TDs, in overtime win vs. Falcons.

AFC DEFENSE
Danielle Hunter
DE, Texans

Totaled seven tackles, four tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks, and a forced fumble in comeback victory over Jacksonville.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Kene Nwangwu
RB, Jets

Opened Jets' win over Cleveland with 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, his fifth career kickoff-return TD of 95+ yards.

NFC OFFENSE
Jahmyr Gibbs
RB, Lions

Led all NFC players in Week 10 in scrimmage yards (172), rushing yards (142), rushing average (9.5 yards per attempt), and scrimmage TDs (3) to spark win at Washington.

NFC DEFENSE
DeMarcus Lawrence
LB, Seahawks

Had four tackles and became third player in NFL history with two fumble-return touchdowns in a game to help defeat Cardinals.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Nathan Shepherd
DT, Saints

Blocked third-quarter field-goal attempt — and also had two tackles and a sack on defense — to lead effort in victory vs. Carolina.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Nick Emmanwori
S, Seahawks

Starred in win over Cardinals with nine tackles, four passes defensed, and a half sack.

AARON M. SPRECHER/AP IMAGES (Gibbs); MARIA LYSAKER/AP IMAGES (Hunter); LINDSEY WASSON/AP IMAGES (Emmanwori)

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different teams. ... Tetairoa McMillan had eight catches for 130 yards and two TDs in the Panthers' 30-27 overtime win at Atlanta. ... In the Cardinals' setback to the 49ers, Jacoby Brissett completed 47 passes, an NFL record for a regular-season game, and threw for 452 yards and two touchdowns. ... With four sacks vs. the Ravens, Browns defensive end Myles Garrett became the first player since 1982 with at least 12 sacks in six consecutive seasons.

WEEK 12:
Bears Continue to Feast

Caleb Williams threw three touchdown passes — two of those to DJ Moore — to direct the Bears past Pittsburgh, 31-28, for the team's eighth win in nine games. Moore's second TD catch, a 25-yarder in the third quarter, put Chicago ahead for good. "Having one of our star guys (Moore) get going, it only builds momentum for us as a team," said Williams, who completed 19 of 35 passes for 239 yards. "It was good to get him in the end zone a couple times." Colston Loveland also caught a touchdown pass in the win, while Kyle Monangai's 2-yard TD run pushed the lead to 31-21 early in the fourth quarter. ... Dak Prescott threw for 354 yards and two TDs and added a rushing touchdown to bring the Cowboys back from a 21-point deficit for a 24-21 win over the Eagles. ... Jahmyr Gibbs totaled 264 scrimmage yards and scored three TDs, the last of those on a 69-yard run in overtime that propelled the Lions to a 34-27 victory over the Giants. ... Micah Parsons' two sacks included his 10th of the season as the Packers topped the Vikings, 23-6.

WEEK 13:
Dallas Delivers Again

With their 31-28 victory over the Chiefs on Thanksgiving Day, the Cowboys completed a four-day stretch that saw them defeat both Super Bowl LIX

Scores
AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 11/November 13-17

JETS	14	CHARGERS	6	**TEXANS**	**16**	CHIEFS	19
PATRIOTS	**27**	**JAGUARS**	**35**	TITANS	13	**BRONCOS**	**22**
COMMANDERS	13 (OT)*	**BEARS**	**19**	**49ERS**	**41**	LIONS	9
DOLPHINS	**16**	VIKINGS	17	CARDINALS	22	**EAGLES**	**16**
PANTHERS	**30** (OT)	**PACKERS**	**27**	SEAHAWKS	19	**COWBOYS**	**33**
FALCONS	27	GIANTS	20	**RAMS**	**21**	RAIDERS	16
BUCCANEERS	32	BENGALS	12	**RAVENS**	**23**	*Played in Madrid, Spain	
BILLS	**44**	**STEELERS**	**34**	BROWNS	16	**BYES: COLTS, SAINTS**	

AFC OFFENSE
Josh Allen
QB, Bills

Passed for 317 yards and three touchdowns and added three rushing touchdowns in victory over Tampa Bay, his second time with 300+ passing yards, three TD passes, and three rushing TDs in a game.

AFC DEFENSE
Jordyn Brooks
LB, Dolphins

Recorded 20 tackles during overtime win vs. Commanders in Spain, the second time in his career with 20+ tackles in a game.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Wil Lutz
K, Broncos

Converted all five field-goal attempts — including a 54-yard FG and the game-winning 35-yarder — as part of victory over Kansas City.

NFC OFFENSE
Bryce Young
QB, Panthers

Completed 31 of 45 passes for franchise-record and career-high 448 yards with three TDs and no interceptions to lead overtime win at Atlanta.

NFC DEFENSE
Jordan Davis
DT, Eagles

Defensed three passes and contributed to a victorious effort that limited Detroit to nine points and 3-of-18 on third-down and fourth-down conversions.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Ethan Evans
P, Rams

Played key role in win over Bucs, placing four punts inside the 20-yard line and two inside the 10, including a clutch 50-yarder with 1:50 to go that went out of bounds at the 1-yard line.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Carson Schwesinger
LB, Browns

Contributed team-leading 10 tackles, an interception, and a pass defensed against Ravens.

WEEK 12/November 20-24

BILLS	19	GIANTS	27 (OT)	**JAGUARS**	**27** (OT)	BUCCANEERS	7
TEXANS	**23**	**LIONS**	**34**	CARDINALS	24	**RAMS**	**34**
JETS	10	VIKINGS	6	**BROWNS**	**24**	PANTHERS	9
RAVENS	**23**	**PACKERS**	**23**	RAIDERS	10	**49ERS**	**20**
STEELERS	28	COLTS	20 (OT)	EAGLES	21	**BYES: BRONCOS, CHARGERS, COMMANDERS, DOLPHINS**	
BEARS	**31**	**CHIEFS**	**23**	**COWBOYS**	**24**		
PATRIOTS	**26**	**SEAHAWKS**	**30**	**FALCONS**	**24**		
BENGALS	20	TITANS	24	SAINTS	10		

AFC OFFENSE
Kareem Hunt
RB, Chiefs

Lone AFC player with 100+ rushing yards (104) and 25+ receiving yards (26), and started late rally with 2-yard TD run in an overtime win vs. Colts.

AFC DEFENSE
Myles Garrett
DE, Browns

Totaled five tackles, four tackles for loss, three sacks, and two forced fumbles in Cleveland's win at Las Vegas.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Andy Borregales
K, Patriots

Was perfect on four field-goal attempts — hitting from 41, 45, 19, and 52 yards — to help defeat Bengals.

NFC OFFENSE
Jahmyr Gibbs
RB, Lions

Set career highs for receptions (11) and scrimmage yards (264) and scored three TDs, including one on a 69-yard run in overtime, to power win over Giants.

NFC DEFENSE
Ji'Ayir Brown
S, 49ers

Recorded five tackles and had two interceptions, including one in the end zone to stop a scoring threat, in win over Carolina.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Zane Gonzalez
K, Falcons

Converted all three of his field-goal attempts, including makes from 56 and 54 yards, and a PAT to contribute in victory at New Orleans.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Barrett Carter
LB, Bengals

Had 16 tackles, including eight solo stops, in contest vs. Patriots.

JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP IMAGES (Allen); SUE OGROCKI/AP IMAGES (Schwesinger); MATTHEW J. LEE/GETTY IMAGES (Carter)

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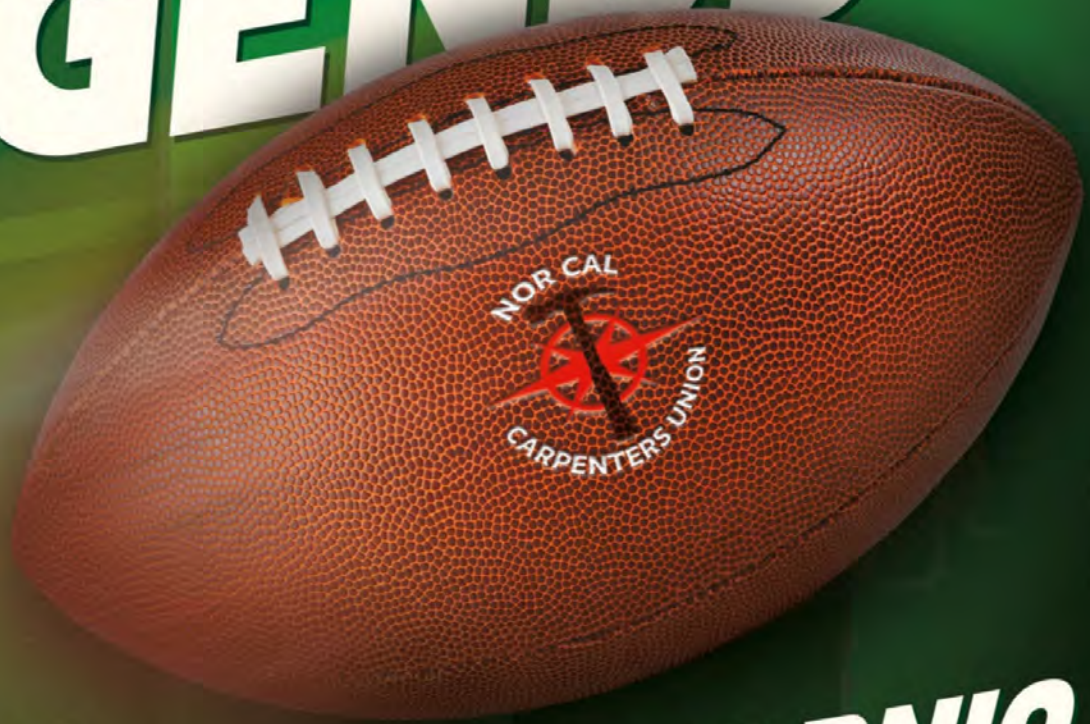

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Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 13/November 27-December 1

PACKERS	**31**	RAMS	28	FALCONS	24	RAIDERS	14
LIONS	24	**PANTHERS**	**31**	**JETS**	**27**	**CHARGERS**	**31**
CHIEFS	28	**49ERS**	**26**	CARDINALS	17	**BILLS**	**26**
COWBOYS	**31**	BROWNS	8	**BUCCANEERS**	**20**	STEELERS	7
BENGALS	**32**	**TEXANS**	**20**	**JAGUARS**	**25**	**BRONCOS**	**27** (OT)
RAVENS	14	COLTS	16	TITANS	3	COMMANDERS	26
BEARS	**24**	SAINTS	17	VIKINGS	0	GIANTS	15
EAGLES	15	**DOLPHINS**	**21**	**SEAHAWKS**	**26**	**PATRIOTS**	**33**

AFC OFFENSE
Drake Maye
QB, Patriots

Compiled a 126.0 passer rating in win over Giants by completing 24 of 31 passes for 282 yards and two touchdowns.

AFC DEFENSE
Christian Benford
CB, Bills

Contributed an all-around effort in victory at Pittsburgh, recording two tackles, a tackle for loss, an interception, and a fumble recovery he returned for a 17-yard touchdown.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Evan McPherson
K, Bengals

Successful on all six of his field-goal attempts – from 31, 42, 24, 33, 52, and 41 yards – as well as both of his PATs in win at Baltimore.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
TreVeyon Henderson
RB, Patriots

Rushed for 61 yards, averaging 6.1 yards per carry, and caught three passes in win over Giants.

NFC OFFENSE
Jordan Love
QB, Packers

Completed 18 of 30 passes for 234 yards, four touchdowns, and no interceptions in Thanksgiving Day win at Detroit.

NFC DEFENSE
Ernest Jones
LB, Seahawks

Totaled 12 tackles and two interceptions, one that he returned for an 85-yard touchdown, in shutout of Vikings.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Riley Dixon
P, Buccaneers

Placed three of his five punts inside the 20-yard line and two inside the 10, including a 59-yarder in the closing minutes that helped preserve victory over Cardinals.

WEEK 14/December 4-8

COWBOYS	30	COLTS	19	BENGALS	34	**RAMS**	**45**
LIONS	**44**	**JAGUARS**	**36**	**BILLS**	**39**	CARDINALS	17
SEAHAWKS	**37**	COMMANDERS	0	**BRONCOS**	**24**	**TEXANS**	**20**
FALCONS	9	**VIKINGS**	**31**	RAIDERS	17	CHIEFS	10
STEELERS	**27**	**DOLPHINS**	**34**	BEARS	21	EAGLES	19
RAVENS	22	JETS	10	**PACKERS**	**28**	**CHARGERS**	**22** (OT)
TITANS	**31**	**SAINTS**	**24**				
BROWNS	29	BUCCANEERS	20				

BYES: 49ERS, GIANTS, PANTHERS, PATRIOTS

AFC OFFENSE
Josh Allen
QB, Bills

Threw for 251 yards and rushed for 78 in win over Bengals while recording his 50th career game with both a passing and rushing TD, the most in NFL history.

AFC DEFENSE
Rasul Douglas
CB, Dolphins

As part of win over Jets, became first AFC player since 2010 with five passes defensed and an interception in a game.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Marvin Mims
WR, Broncos

48-yard punt-return touchdown gave Denver the halftime lead on the way to defeating Raiders.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Shedeur Sanders
QB, Browns

Threw for 364 yards and three touchdowns – and added 29 rushing yards and another TD – in contest vs. Titans.

NFC OFFENSE
Puka Nacua
WR, Rams

Had seven receptions for 167 yards and two touchdowns – on catches of 28 and 31 yards – in win at Arizona.

NFC DEFENSE
Al-Quadin Muhammad
Edge, Lions

Became second NFC player this season to record three sacks in a game, helping lift Lions to victory over Dallas.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Rashid Shaheed
WR, Seahawks

Brought back a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown to open the second half of win at Atlanta.

participants. Dak Prescott paced the win by throwing for two touchdowns, including a 15-yarder to CeeDee Lamb to open the team's scoring. Malik Davis added a 43-yard TD run and Javonte Williams' 3-yard scoring catch put Dallas ahead for good early in the fourth quarter. ... Kyle Monangai and D'Andre Swift combined to rush for 255 yards and two touchdowns to help Chicago win its fifth straight game, 24-15 over Philadelphia. ... Carolina climbed over the .500 mark with a 31-28 win over the Rams, scoring the winning points on Bryce Young's 43-yard TD pass to Tetairoa McMillan with 6:43 to play. ... Ernest Jones IV's 85-yard interception-return TD was one of five turnovers forced by Seattle's defense in a 26-0 shutout of Minnesota.

WEEK 14: First and Foremost

Division leads were at stake when the Ravens hosted the Steelers for the top spot in the AFC North and the Jaguars and Colts clashed to see who'd claim the upper hand in the AFC South. Aaron Rodgers powered the Steelers to a 27-22 win, throwing for 284 yards, including a 38-yard catch-and-run TD to Jaylen Warren, and added a scoring run of his own, his first since 2022. "It's all about practicing like we did this week," said Rodgers. "It gives you confidence to make some of those plays, and I thought it was our most crisp week of prep on the field." The Jaguars struck quickly on the way to their 11th straight home win over Indianapolis, putting up four first-half touchdowns en route to a 36-19 decision. Travis Etienne accounted for two of those TDs with runs of 3 and 28 yards. Defensively, the league's top-ranked rushing defense limited Colts running back Jonathan Taylor to 74 yards. "Our guys took control of the moment," said Jaguars head coach Liam Coen. "The kind of football team we are right now is one with the ability to go stop the run."

KENNETH RICHMOND/GETTY IMAGES (Douglas); MICHAEL OWENS/AP IMAGES (Henderson); KIRK IRWIN/AP IMAGES (Sanders)

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AFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Patriots‡	**14-3-0**	**.824**	**490**	**320**
Bills†	12-5-0	.706	481	365
Dolphins	7-10-0	.412	347	424
Jets	3-14-0	.176	300	503

AFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Steelers‡	**10-7-0**	**.588**	**397**	**387**
Ravens	8-9-0	.471	424	398
Bengals	6-11-0	.353	414	492
Browns	5-12-0	.294	279	379

AFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Jaguars‡	**13-4-0**	**.765**	**474**	**336**
Texans†	12-5-0	.706	404	295
Colts	8-9-0	.471	466	412
Titans	3-14-0	.176	284	478

AFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Broncos‡	**14-3-0**	**.824**	**401**	**311**
Chargers†	11-6-0	.647	368	340
Chiefs	6-11-0	.353	362	328
Raiders	3-14-0	.176	241	432

NFC EAST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Eagles‡	**11-6-0**	**.647**	**379**	**325**
Cowboys	7-9-1	.441	471	511
Commanders	5-12-0	.294	356	451
Giants	4-13-0	.235	381	439

NFC NORTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Bears‡	**11-6-0**	**.647**	**441**	**415**
Packers†	9-7-1	.559	391	360
Vikings	9-8-0	.529	344	333
Lions	9-8-0	.529	481	413

NFC SOUTH	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Panthers‡	**8-9-0**	**.471**	**311**	**380**
Buccaneers	8-9-0	.471	380	411
Falcons	8-9-0	.471	353	401
Saints	6-11-0	.353	306	383

NFC WEST	W-L-T	PCT	PF	PA
Seahawks‡	**14-3-0**	**.824**	**483**	**292**
Rams†	12-5-0	.706	518	346
49ers†	12-5-0	.706	437	371
Cardinals	3-14-0	.176	355	488

QB Sam Darnold was the spark to Seattle's offense, which averaged 28.4 ppg, third-best in the NFL.

JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP IMAGES

Seahawks Surge to NFC West Title

SHOWDOWN WIN OVER 49ERS CAPS 14-3 CAMPAIGN AND DELIVERS CONFERENCE'S TOP SEED.

The NFC West crown — and the conference's coveted No. 1 seed — came down to a Week 18 clash at Levi's Stadium, where the visiting Seahawks fought off the 49ers, 13-3. With the win, Seattle earned a first-round playoff bye and positioned itself to host two home playoff games in hopes of a return trip to the Bay Area for Super Bowl LX.

"It's huge to be able to play in front of the 12s (Seattle's home crowd at Lumen Field)," said quarterback Sam Darnold, who threw for 25 touchdowns on the year and completed a career-high 67.7 percent of his passes. "It's unlike any other stadium in terms of how loud it can be and how tough it can be for the other offense. We're really looking forward to being at home for the playoffs."

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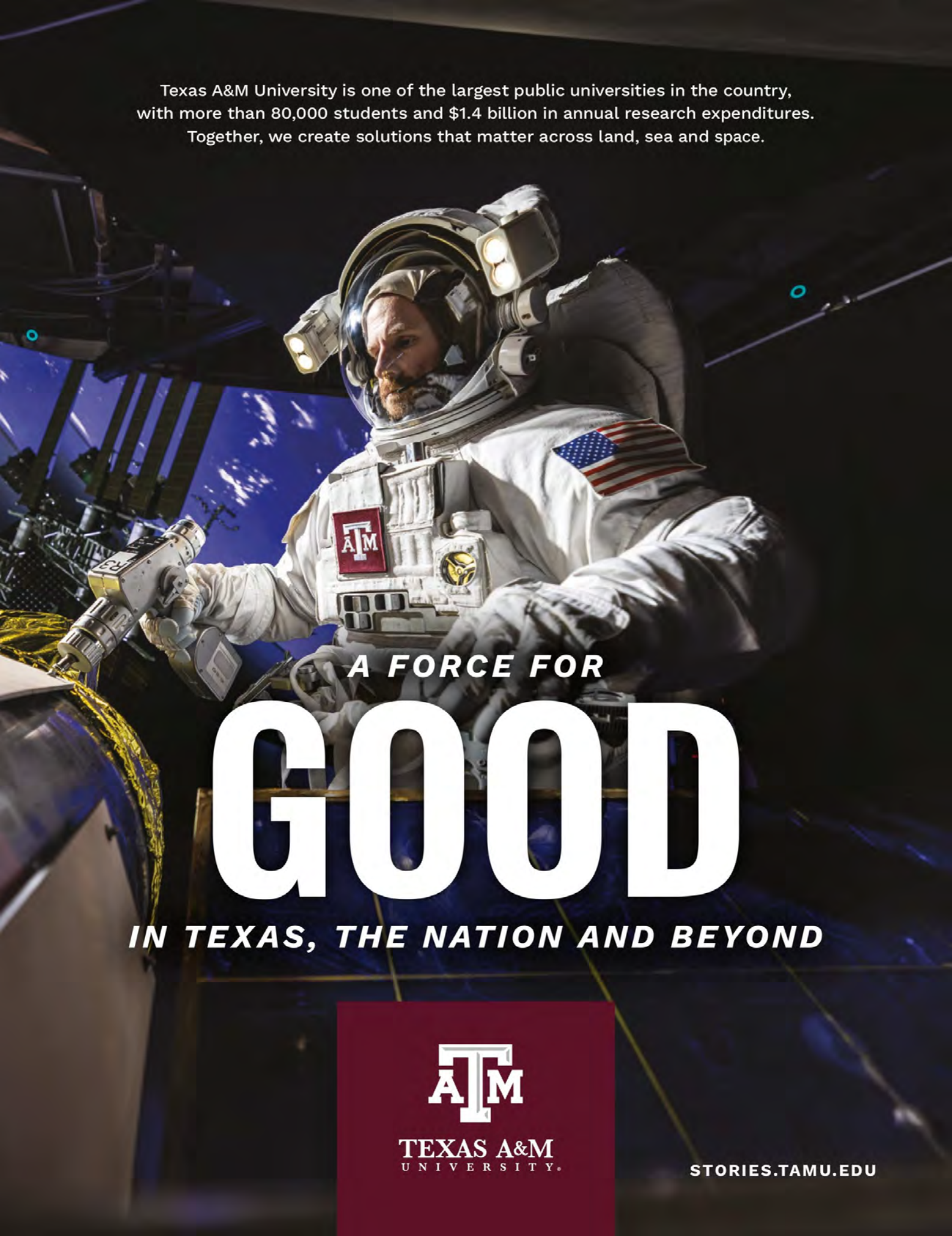
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Zach Charbonnet accounted for the game's lone touchdown on a 27-yard run and Jason Myers padded the Seahawks' point total with a pair of field goals. That was more than enough for the team's defense, which allowed only nine first downs, collected three sacks, and stopped a late San Francisco threat with a Drake Thomas interception.

Seattle closed the regular season on a seven-game winning streak to finish atop of a highly competitive NFC West that sent three of its members to the playoffs. Along the way, the team proved it could win in drastically different ways. In Week 15, Myers made six field goals, including the game-winner from 56 yards, to beat the Colts, 18-16. A wild affair with the Rams followed, finally won by the Seahawks in overtime, 38-37, on a 4-yard touchdown reception by Jaxon Smith-Njigba and a gutsy two-point conversion call that saw connect Darnold with Eric Saubert. Charbonnet then scored twice in a comfortable 27-10 victory over Carolina in Week 17.

WEEK 15: Epic Efforts

Tremendous performances helped the standing of two AFC playoff contenders. In Jacksonville, Trevor Lawrence threw for 330 yards and five touchdowns while also running for a score, leading the Jaguars past the Jets, 48-20. "Definitely this is as confident as I've felt," said Lawrence after helping his team improve to 10-4 and maintain a one-game lead in the AFC South. "Just the feeling in our locker room and our team and our offense, it's been fun. We've got to continue to build on that and not get complacent." Travis Etienne scored touchdowns on all three

JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP IMAGES

The Browns' Myles Garrett (95) celebrates after bringing down Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow for his 23rd sack of the season, setting the NFL single-season record.

Ben Johnson had a successful first season as the head coach of the Bears, whose 11 wins were a six-game improvement from 2024 and vaulted them to their first NFC North title since 2018.

James Cook rushed for a career-high and league-leading 1,621 yards, helping carry the Bills to their seventh consecutive playoff appearance.

of his receptions, the last of those a 45-yard screen pass. "My hands have always been good," he said. "I feel like I've just been working in the shadows, catching balls and doing it in practice over and over again." Meanwhile, the Bills crept closer in the AFC East, rallying from a 21-0 deficit to defeat the division-leading Patriots, 35-31. James Cook rushed for a pair of touchdowns, including the go-ahead score on an 11-yard run with 6:53 remaining. "No matter what the score is, if it's in the third quarter, in the fourth quarter, whatever it is, if we've got a chance and we've got the ball, we like our chances," said QB Josh Allen, whose 193-yard passing day included three touchdown throws, two to Dawson Knox. ... The Rams and the Broncos became the first teams to clinch playoff spots. Los Angeles defeated Detroit, 41-34, sparked by Puka Nacua (9 receptions for 181 yards) and Kyren Williams (78 rushing yards, 2 TDs), while Denver picked up its 11th consecutive win, defeating Green Bay, 34-26. Bo Nix passed for 302 yards and four TDs for the victors.

WEEK 16: Panthers Pounce

The NFC South race took another turn with the Panthers upending Tampa Bay, 23-20, to move into first place. "Everything is right in front of us still," said Carolina head coach Dave Canales, who was attempting to lead the franchise to its first division title in 10 seasons. "To give ourselves a chance to play

NAM HUH/AP IMAGES (Johnson); ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP IMAGES (Cook)

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FOUR DIAMOND

Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 15/December 11-15

FALCONS	**29**	JETS	20	RAIDERS	0	COLTS	16
BUCCANEERS	28	**JAGUARS**	**48**	**EAGLES**	**31**	**SEAHAWKS**	**18**
BROWNS	3	**CHARGERS**	**16**	PACKERS	26	TITANS	24
BEARS	**31**	CHIEFS	13	**BRONCOS**	**34**	**49ERS**	**37**
RAVENS	**24**	**BILLS**	**35**	LIONS	34	**VIKINGS**	**34**
BENGALS	0	PATRIOTS	31	**RAMS**	**41**	COWBOYS	26
CARDINALS	20	**COMMANDERS**	**29**	PANTHERS	17	DOLPHINS	15
TEXANS	**40**	GIANTS	21	**SAINTS**	**20**	**STEELERS**	**28**

AFC OFFENSE
Trevor Lawrence
QB, Jaguars

In win over Jets, became first player in NFL history with 300+ passing yards (330), 50+ rushing yards (51), five TD passes, and a rushing touchdown in a game.

AFC DEFENSE
Alohi Gilman
S, Ravens

Recorded eight tackles, a pass defensed, and scored an 84-yard defensive touchdown – on a lateral following an interception – in shutout of Cincinnati.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Cameron Dicker
K, Chargers

Converted all three field-goal attempts – two from 49 yards and one from 23 – as well as a PAT to help defeat Chiefs.

NFC OFFENSE
Kyle Pitts
TE, Falcons

First NFL tight end since 1996 to have 10+ receptions (11), 150+ receiving yards (166), and three TD receptions in a game, keying one-point win over Tampa Bay.

NFC DEFENSE
D'Marco Jackson
LB, Bears

Credited with seven tackles, two passes defensed, a sack, and an interception for a defense that kept Cleveland out of the end zone.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Jason Myers
K, Seahawks

Was perfect on all six of his field-goal attempts, the last of those a game-winning 56-yarder to edge the Colts.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jacory Croskey-Merritt
RB, Commanders

Won award for third time on season after rushing for 96 yards and a touchdown in win vs. Giants.

WEEK 16/December 18-22

RAMS	37	**BILLS**	**23**	CHIEFS	9	**STEELERS**	**29**
SEAHAWKS	**38** (OT)	BROWNS	20	**TITANS**	**26**	LIONS	24
EAGLES	**29**	**CHARGERS**	**34**	**BENGALS**	**45**	RAIDERS	21
COMMANDERS	18	COWBOYS	17	DOLPHINS	21	**TEXANS**	**23**
PACKERS	16	JETS	6	**FALCONS**	**26**	**PATRIOTS**	**28**
BEARS	**22** (OT)	**SAINTS**	**29**	CARDINALS	19	RAVENS	24
BUCCANEERS	20	**VIKINGS**	**16**	**JAGUARS**	**34**	**49ERS**	**48**
PANTHERS	**23**	GIANTS	13	BRONCOS	20	COLTS	27

AFC OFFENSE
Joe Burrow
QB, Bengals

Posted week's highest passer rating (146.5) as part of a 309-yard, four-touchdown game in victory at Miami.

AFC DEFENSE
Derek Stingley Jr.
CB, Texans

Sparked win over Las Vegas with two tackles, a forced fumble, and a 31-yard interception-return touchdown.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Logan Cooke
P, Jaguars

Placed four of his six punts inside the 20-yard-line and two inside the 10 while averaging 52 yards per punt, keying victory at Denver.

NFC OFFENSE
Brock Purdy
QB, 49ers

In win over Colts, completed 25 of 34 passes (73.5%) for 295 yards while becoming first 49er since Joe Montana in 1990 to throw for five touchdowns in a regular-season game.

NFC DEFENSE
Cooper DeJean
DB, Eagles

Recorded four tackles, a career-high four passes defensed, and an interception to lead stellar defensive effort in victory vs. Commanders.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Cairo Santos
K, Bears

Came up clutch in difficult conditions to help defeat Packers, making field goals from 46, 51, and 43 yards and placing an onside kick that Bears recovered to set up game-tying score.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Ashton Jeanty
RB, Raiders

Scored TDs on a 60-yard reception and a 51-yard run while totaling 188 scrimmage yards in game vs. Texans.

PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP IMAGES (Lawrence); SETH WENIG/AP IMAGES (Croskey-Merritt); MARIA LYSAKER/AP IMAGES (Jeanty)

meaningful football at this time of the year, those guys have earned it." Bryce Young sparked the win with 191 passing yards and two touchdowns — to Tetairoa McMillan and Ja'Tavion Sanders — and safety Lathan Ransom wrapped things up with an interception to end a Tampa Bay drive in the game's final minute. ... With their 29-24 victory at Detroit, the Steelers secured their 22nd consecutive season with a .500-or-better record, surpassing the Cowboys for the longest streak in NFL history. ... The Eagles became the first NFC East team to win back-to-back division titles in 21 seasons, defeating Washington, 29-18. Saquon Barkley and Tank Bigsby rushed for touchdowns, part of a ground game that picked up 207 yards. ... Justin Herbert passed for 300 yards and two touchdowns, and helped the team's cause on the ground with 42 rushing yards and another score, in the Chargers' 34-17 defeat of Dallas. ... The Vikings' Justin Jefferson caught six passes in the team's 16-13 victory over the Giants, giving him 567 for his career, the most by a player in his first six seasons in NFL history.

WEEK 17: Maye is a Force

Led by Drake Maye's five touchdown passes, the Patriots handled the Jets, 42-10, to capture their first AFC East title since 2019 and remain in contention for the conference's top seed. Maye (19 of 21, 256 yards) did all his work in the first three quarters while becoming the first player in NFL history to record two games in the same season with at least 200 passing yards and a completion percentage of 90 or higher. The win also allowed New England to finish undefeated on the road. "It comes down to unfinished business," Maye said. "You want to go 8-0 on the road. That was something we thought would be pretty cool. In this league, it's hard to win on the road, and we accomplished that today." ... The Broncos defeated Kansas City, 20-13, to clinch the AFC West for the first time since

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Scores AND PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WEEK 17/December 25-29

COWBOYS	**30**	**RAVENS**	**41**	**JAGUARS**	**23**	**GIANTS**	**34**
COMMANDERS	23	PACKERS	24	COLTS	17	RAIDERS	10
LIONS	10	**SEAHAWKS**	**27**	BUCCANEERS	17	**EAGLES**	**13**
VIKINGS	**23**	PANTHERS	10	**DOLPHINS**	**20**	BILLS	12
BRONCOS	**20**	CARDINALS	14	**PATRIOTS**	**42**	BEARS	38
CHIEFS	13	**BENGALS**	**37**	JETS	10	**49ERS**	**42**
TEXANS	**20**	STEELERS	6	**SAINTS**	**34**	RAMS	24
CHARGERS	16	**BROWNS**	**13**	TITANS	26	**FALCONS**	**27**

AFC OFFENSE
Derrick Henry
RB, Ravens

Set NFL record with seventh career 200-yard rushing effort, erupting for 216 yards and four touchdowns to power team's triumph at Green Bay.

AFC DEFENSE
Bradley Chubb
LB, Dolphins

Recorded three tackles, two sacks, and a forced fumble in win against Tampa Bay.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Tommy Townsend
P, Texans

Played big role in field position battle in victory at Chargers, placing four of his five punts inside the 20-yard line and two inside the 10.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Jacory Croskey-Merritt
RB, Commanders

Totaled 105 rushing yards, highlighted by TD runs of 10 and 72 yards, in Christmas Day game vs. Dallas.

NFC OFFENSE
Bijan Robinson
RB, Falcons

Had 93-yard touchdown run as part of a 195-yard rushing effort and also caught a touchdown pass in win over Rams.

NFC DEFENSE
Harrison Smith
S, Vikings

Posted all-around performance to help defeat Lions with three tackles, three passes defensed, two tackles for loss, a sack, and an interception.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Jalen Carter
DT, Eagles

Blocked an extra-point attempt in fourth quarter of game at Buffalo, a critical play in what turned out to be a one-point victory.

WEEK 18/January 3-4

PANTHERS	14	COLTS	30	JETS	8	CHIEFS	12
BUCCANEERS	**16**	**TEXANS**	**38**	**BILLS**	**35**	**RAIDERS**	**14**
SEAHAWKS	**13**	TITANS	7	**LIONS**	**19**	DOLPHINS	10
49ERS	3	**JAGUARS**	**41**	BEARS	16	**PATRIOTS**	**38**
SAINTS	17	PACKERS	3	CHARGERS	3	**COMMANDERS**	**24**
FALCONS	**19**	**VIKINGS**	**16**	**BRONCOS**	**19**	EAGLES	17
BROWNS	**20**	COWBOYS	17	CARDINALS	20	RAVENS	24
BENGALS	18	**GIANTS**	**34**	**RAMS**	**37**	**STEELERS**	**26**

AFC OFFENSE
Rhamondre Stevenson
RB, Patriots

Amassed 153 scrimmage yards, including 131 yards rushing, and scored three touchdowns to power victory over Miami.

AFC DEFENSE
Devin Bush
LB, Browns

Credited with 14 tackles and had a 97-yard interception-return touchdown in first quarter of win at Cincinnati.

AFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Ka'imi Fairbairn
K, Texans

Converted all six field-goal attempts — with a long of 51 yards and the game-winner from 43 yards — and both PATs to help defeat Colts.

PEPSI ZERO SUGAR ROOKIE
Colston Loveland
TE, Bears

Closed out regular season with a 10-catch, 91-yard performance vs. Lions that included a fourth-quarter TD.

NFC OFFENSE
Matthew Stafford
QB, Rams

With his 259-yard, 4-TD passing performance in win over Cardinals, became third player in NFL history with multiple touchdown passes in 15 games in a single season.

NFC DEFENSE
Bobby Okereke
LB, Giants

Recorded six tackles, an interception, and a fumble recovery to lead defensive effort in victory over Dallas.

NFC SPECIAL TEAMS
Zane Gonzalez
K, Falcons

Went a perfect 4-of-4 on field-goal attempts, hitting from 40, 51, 38, and 38 yards, and also made lone PAT as part of triumph over Saints.

2015. With the win, Denver head coach Sean Payton joined Bill Belichick as the only coaches in NFL history to win at least 13 games in five or more seasons. ... In the Cardinals' game at Cincinnati, Trey McBride had 10 receptions, including his 117th of the season to set the NFL single-season record for a tight end. ... Jaxson Dart passed for 207 yards and rushed for 48 yards and two TDs in the Giants' 34-10 victory over Las Vegas.

WEEK 18: Steelers Win a Wild One

The final game of the regular season came down to the final play as Pittsburgh scored late and then held on to defeat the Ravens, 26-24, and capture the AFC North. Aaron Rodgers threw for 294 yards, capped by a 26-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Austin III in the final minute that put his team ahead. Baltimore still had a chance to win, but Tyler Loop's 44-yard field-goal attempt as time expired was wide right. "The belief level in the locker room after a win like this is exponentially greater," said Rodgers, who rallied his team from an early 10-point deficit. The lead changed hands four times in the game's final nine minutes, and the Ravens went ahead, 24-20, on Lamar Jackson's 64-yard scoring pass to Zay Flowers with 2:30 to go before Rodgers drove the Steelers 65 yards in six plays for what turned out to be the winning points. ... Led by their defense and special teams, the Broncos locked up the AFC's top seed with a 19-3 victory over the Chargers. Ja'Quan McMillian scored the game's lone touchdown on a 45-yard interception return and Wil Lutz was good on all four of his field-goal attempts. ... Myles Garrett set the NFL single-season sack record, recording his 23rd during the fourth quarter of the Browns' 20-18 win at Cincinnati.

MATT LUDTKE/AP IMAGES (Henry); DANIEL KUCIN JR./AP IMAGES (Croskey-Merritt); SCOTT BOEHM/AP IMAGES (Loveland)

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AFC WILD CARD

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS 3 FINAL 16 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

TAKING THE FIRST STEP in pursuit of their first Super Bowl appearance since winning it all seven years ago, the Patriots put on a suffocating defensive display. Andy Borregales' three field goals provided a 9-3 lead through three quarters, and New England got the breathing room it needed when Drake Maye (17 of 29 passing, 268 yards; 66 rushing yards) threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Henry with 9:52 remaining. The Chargers managed just 207 yards of offense and saw QB Justin Herbert sacked six times, twice by Milton Williams. "It's on us, what we do. I've been saying that all season," Williams said. "We can control the game. If we do what we need to do up front, we're going to win." The Patriots' defense made statements early and late, stopping the Chargers on downs at the 2-yard line midway through the first quarter and ending Los Angeles' final two possessions of the game with a strip-sack recovered by linebacker K'Lavon Chaisson and a fourth-down sack by Williams.

	1	2	3	4	F
#7 Chargers	0	3	0	0	3
#2 Patriots	0	6	3	7	**16**

Patriots defensive tackle Milton Williams (97) brings down quarterback Justin Herbert for one of his team's six sacks. New England allowed just three points in its victory, the fewest of any team on Wild Card weekend.

CHARLES KRUPA/AP IMAGES

BUFFALO BILLS 27 FINAL 24 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

KEEPING WITH THE THEME OF Wild Card Weekend thrillers, Josh Allen's late 1-yard touchdown run pushed the Bills to victory. The game had four fourth-quarter lead changes, the last of those coming with 1:05 remaining to cap a Buffalo drive that featured a clutch 36-yard Allen-to-Brandin Cooks completion and a 10-yard Allen run on a fourth-down QB sneak. "When your quarterback's that type of warrior, that type of competitor, it just goes through the whole team," said Bills head coach Sean McDermott. Allen finished the day completing 28 of 35 passes for 273 yards and a TD — a 15-yard connection with Dalton Kincaid earlier in the fourth quarter — while also rushing for two scores. Khalil Shakir led the Bills with 12 receptions for 82 yards. Jacksonville QB Trevor Lawrence threw for 207 yards, including touchdowns to Brian Thomas Jr., Parker Washington, and Travis Etienne, the last of those putting the hosts in front with 4:10 to play. But after Allen's go-ahead touchdown run, Bills safety Cole Bishop dashed the Jaguars' hopes when he picked off Lawrence with 59 seconds to play.

	1	2	3	4	F
#6 Bills	3	7	3	14	**27**
#3 Jaguars	0	7	3	14	24

HOUSTON TEXANS 30 FINAL 6 PITTSBURGH STEELERS

RELENTLESS DEFENSIVE pressure was the recipe for the Texans, who recorded their 10th consecutive victory and won their first road playoff game in franchise history. That pressure limited the host Steelers to 175 total yards and produced two defensive touchdowns, including Sheldon Rankins' 33-yard fumble return early in the fourth quarter that broke open a close game. Calen Bullock later added a 50-yard interception-return touchdown. "We're here for it all. I won't sugarcoat it, won't dance around that topic," said Rankins of Houston's postseason goals. "We're here for the whole thing." It wasn't just defense for the Texans, who got boosts from Christian Kirk (8 receptions, 144 yards, 1 TD) and Woody Marks (112 rushing yards, 1 TD). Still, the game was close for better than three quarters, with Houston holding a 10-6 lead after a 51-yard Ka'imi Fairbairn field goal with 13:07 to play. But four plays into Pittsburgh's next possession, Will Anderson Jr. and Rankins sacked quarterback Aaron Rodgers, and Rankins scooped up the loose ball and ran for a touchdown.

	1	2	3	4	F
#5 Texans	0	7	0	23	**30**
#4 Steelers	3	3	0	0	6

NFC WILD CARD

Caleb Williams orchestrated a big Bears comeback by throwing two fourth-quarter touchdown passes against the Packers.

GREEN BAY PACKERS 27 FINAL 31 CHICAGO BEARS

ERUPTING FOR 25 POINTS during a wild fourth-quarter rally, the Bears stunned a division rival and earned their first playoff win since 2010. Chicago trailed by as many as 18 points and entered the final 15 minutes still down 21-6 before its offense went to work. The go-ahead points came on Caleb Williams' 25-yard touchdown pass to DJ Moore with 1:43 to play, and the hosts held on for their seventh fourth-quarter comeback win of the season. "True belief," Williams said. "Belief. That's all you need. You got belief in the coaches that they're gonna call the right play at the right time. You got belief in the players on the field that you're gonna make the right play at the right time." Green Bay built a 21-3 halftime lead before two Cairo Santos field goals and D'Andre Swift's 6-yard TD run with 10:08 remaining pulled the Bears within 21-16. After a Green Bay touchdown, Chicago answered with Olamide Zaccheaus' 8-yard TD reception. The Packers then missed a field goal, opening the door for Williams (24 of 48, 361 yards, 2 TDs), who needed just 1:08 to march his team 66 yards for the winning score.

	1	2	3	4	F
#7 Packers	7	14	0	6	27
#2 **Bears**	3	0	3	25	**31**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 23 FINAL 19 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

TWO FOURTH-QUARTER touchdown catches by Christian McCaffrey — one of those on a pass from wide receiver Jauan Jennings — lifted the 49ers to victory and eliminated the defending Super Bowl champions. Jennings' 29-yard throw, on a play similar to one he ran in Super Bowl LVIII, came on the first play of the final quarter and put San Francisco ahead, 17-16. After the Eagles regained the lead on a 33-yard Jake Elliott field goal, 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy drove his team to victory, finishing a 66-yard march with a 4-yard touchdown pass to McCaffrey with 2:54 to play. "It's just cool for everybody across the board to be able to have this kind of win and celebrate all the stuff that we've been through," Purdy said. The 49ers' QB, who finished with 262 yards passing, put his team on the board on the game's opening possession with a 2-yard TD pass to Demarcus Robinson (6 receptions, 111 yards). Dallas Goedert scored both of Philadelphia's touchdowns, including a 1-yard run that made him the first tight end to rush for a score in NFL playoff history.

	1	2	3	4	F
#6 **49ers**	7	3	0	13	**23**
#3 Eagles	6	7	3	3	19

LOS ANGELES RAMS 34 FINAL 31 CAROLINA PANTHERS

A DOWN-TO-THE-WIRE clash kicked off the Wild Card round as Matthew Stafford's 19-yard touchdown pass to Colby Parkinson with 38 seconds remaining lifted the Rams to victory. The game featured four fourth-quarter lead changes, with Bryce Young briefly putting Carolina ahead on a 7-yard TD throw to Jalen Coker with 2:39 to play. But Stafford (24 of 42, 304 yards, 3 TDs) answered by driving the Rams 71 yards in seven plays — all through the air — to advance his team into the Divisional round for the second consecutive season. "I have been in that spot a lot in my life — and I love that spot," Stafford said. "I would rather it be me having to go out there with our offense and do it, than watch from the sideline. You can make it stressful or you can make it calm and collected, and the latter is what we were today." Puka Nacua was Stafford's favorite target, catching 10 passes for 111 yards, and scored the game's first two touchdowns on a 14-yard reception and 5-yard run. Chuba Hubbard rushed for two TDs for the Panthers, who were hosting their first playoff game since 2015.

	1	2	3	4	F
#5 **Rams**	7	10	3	14	**34**
#4 Panthers	0	14	3	14	31

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AFC DIVISIONAL

PLAYOFF RECAPS

Broncos cornerback Ja'Quan McMillian reacts after his overtime interception against the Bills. The play set up Denver's game-winning drive.

BUFFALO BILLS 30 FINAL (OT) 33 DENVER BRONCOS

TOP-SEEDED DENVER went the extra mile, defeating Buffalo in overtime to reach the AFC Championship Game for the first time in a decade. The Broncos' defense forced five turnovers, the last of those a Ja'Quan McMillian interception that led to Wil Lutz's game-winning 23-yard field goal. "We're just never out of it, and I think that's the character piece (of the team). It wasn't looking good, but in the fourth quarter and overtime, we just found a way to win," said Broncos quarterback Bo Nix, who completed 26 of 46 passes for 279 yards with three TDs but suffered a fractured right ankle on the final drive. Denver snapped a 10-10 tie late in the second quarter on Nix's 29-yard touchdown pass to Lil'Jordan Humphrey, and fumbles by Buffalo on its next two possessions led to a pair of Lutz field goals. The Bills would bounce back to take a 27-23 lead behind a pair of Josh Allen touchdown passes, but a wild final minute sent the game into overtime. The Broncos moved in front on Marvin Mims' 26-yard TD reception with 55 seconds remaining, before the Bills answered with Matt Prater's game-tying 50-yard field goal.

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
#6 Bills	7	3	7	13	0	30
#1 **Broncos**	3	17	3	7	3	**33**

Kayshon Boutte reaches for the ball to make a spectacular fourth-quarter TD catch in the Patriots' win over Houston.

HOUSTON TEXANS 16 FINAL 28 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

IN SLIPPERY AND SNOWY conditions at Gillette Stadium, the Patriots' big plays proved the difference as they won for the 15th time in 16 games. The contest produced eight turnovers, the most consequential one coming when Patriots cornerback Marcus Jones returned a second-quarter interception 26 yards for a touchdown to gave his team a lead it wouldn't relinquish. Carlton Davis III had a pair of interceptions for the victors, while rookie Craig Woodson added an interception and a fumble recovery. Offensively, Patriots quarterback Drake Maye threw for 179 yards and three TDs. Still, New England's lead was just five points early in the fourth quarter when Maye connected on a 32-yard scoring pass to Kayshon Boutte, who made a diving one-handed catch in the end zone that accounted for the game's final points. "Everybody's stepping up. We're using everybody. Everybody's making plays. Everybody's helping us win," said Patriots head coach Mike Vrabel. "I'm excited for these guys, but also, they're not satisfied, and I can tell that."

	1	2	3	4	F
#5 Texans	3	7	6	0	16
#2 **Patriots**	7	14	0	7	**28**

JACK DEMPSEY/AP IMAGES (McMillian); MARK STOCKWELL/AP IMAGES (Boutte)

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NFC DIVISIONAL

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 6 — FINAL — 41 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

RASHID SHAHEED'S 95-YARD TD return on the opening kickoff set the tone for Seattle, which rolled past its division rival and into the NFC title game. The Seahawks' Kenneth Walker III rushed for 116 yards and scored on runs of 7, 15, and 6 yards, while the team's defense forced three turnovers and stopped the 49ers on downs on three other occasions. "One of our most complete games, for sure," said defensive lineman Leonard Williams, who had a sack and was part of an effort that limited the 49ers to 236 total yards. QB Sam Darnold (12 of 17, 124 yards, 1 TD) would lead the Seahawks to points on their first two possessions, the first culminating with Jason Myers' 31-yard field goal. After safety Julian Love recovered a San Francisco fumble, Darnold finished off the next drive with a 4-yard touchdown throw to Jaxon Smith-Njigba that made it 17-0. The 49ers cut into the lead with a pair of Eddy Piñeiro field goals, but Walker's first touchdown run just before halftime put the Seahawks in control.

	1	2	3	4	F
#6 49ers	0	6	0	0	6
#1 Seahawks	17	7	10	7	**41**

The Seahawks' Rashid Shaheed finishes off his game-opening 95-yard kickoff-return touchdown against the 49ers. Seattle led wire-to-wire to advance to the NFC Championship Game for the first time since the 2014 season.

Harrison Mevis (92) celebrates with Rams teammates after his 42-yard field goal in overtime defeated the Bears.

LOS ANGELES RAMS 20 — FINAL (OT) — 17 CHICAGO BEARS

AFTER GOING FROM the brink of victory to the border of defeat, the Rams came out on top in overtime. Harrison Mevis' 42-yard field goal won it, but only after the Bears sent the game into an extra period thanks to a spectacular 14-yard fourth-down touchdown pass from Caleb Williams to Cole Kmet in the final seconds of regulation. Williams was forced to backpedal and then scramble to avoid the Rams' pass rush before heaving a pass that NextGen Stats measured traveling 51.2 yards in the air. It landed in the arms of Kmet in the left corner of the end zone. Chicago was on the move again in overtime, but safety Kamren Curl made a diving interception to give the ball back to Los Angeles. Matthew Stafford then meticulously drove the Rams into field-goal range, keyed by a 16-yard pass to Puka Nacua on a third-and-6 just past midfield. The Rams' Kyren Williams rushed for a game-high 87 yards and scored both of his team's touchdowns, while Cobie Durant intercepted two passes for the victors.

	1	2	3	4	OT	F
#5 Rams	7	3	0	7	3	**20**
#2 Bears	0	10	0	7	0	17

STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AP IMAGES (Shaheed); JEFF ROBERSON/AP IMAGES (Mevis)

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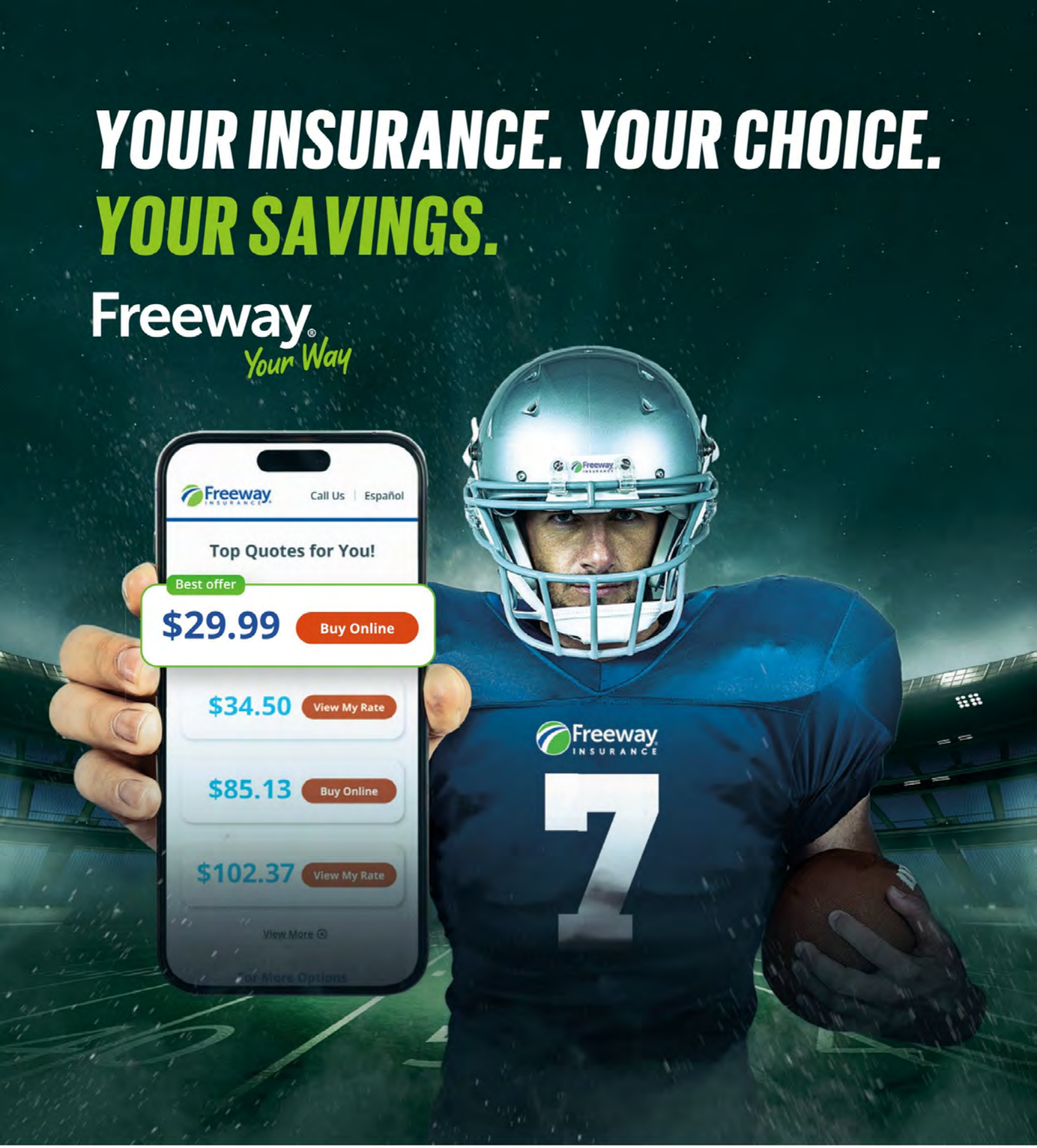

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BRANDON TODD

SALUTE TO SERVICE

Honoring Our Nation's Military Community

SALUTE TO SERVICE is the NFL's year-round commitment to honoring, empowering, and connecting with United States service members, veterans, and their families. This initiative unites all 32 NFL teams and partners — including the **United Service Organizations (USO), Pat Tillman Foundation**, **Wounded Warrior Project®**, **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**, and the **Bob Woodruff Foundation** — to make a lasting impact. Since 2011, the NFL has raised more than $75 million for these charitable partners.

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Wounded Warrior Project® helps post-9/11 veterans and their families thrive for a lifetime — a mission the NFL proudly supports through its

longstanding collaboration. With 79 warriors registering daily, the organization serves more than 240,000 warriors and 58,000 family members, offering programs that strengthen social, physical, mental, and financial wellness at no cost.

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The NFL partners with **TAPS** to fund mentorship and grief support for families of fallen service members as well as sports programming to honor and celebrate the life and service of those who served and died. Thousands of survivors have participated in NFL events — creating new, meaningful memories in honor of their loved ones and building lasting community.

Strengthening Veteran-Serving Organizations

The NFL partners with the **Bob Woodruff Foundation** to identify and fund the most effective, evidence-based programs serving veterans and military families. To support this work, they maintain a structured referral pathway for NFL clubs to submit potential grantees, which are evaluated using the Bob Woodruff Foundation's diligence process.

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SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD

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The NFL and USAA, an Official NFL Salute to Service Partner, named George Kittle, tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, as the recipient of the 2024 Salute to Service Award presented by USAA. The award recognizes the exceptional efforts by members of the NFL family to honor and support the military community.

George Kittle's military connection runs deep — his uncle and grandfather served, and he honors service members at every game, donating over 400 tickets in six years. In 2020, he and his family launched the Hidden Pearls podcast to share community stories, including those of veterans, and later created a free mental health app inspired by these experiences. Kittle has contributed more than $250,000 to military nonprofits and spotlighted causes through the NFL's My Cause My Cleats.

USAA contributed $25,000 in Kittle's honor to the official aid societies representing each of the military branches. The NFL Foundation matched the $25,000, which is donated to Kittle's military charity of choice.

To learn more about the NFL's Salute to Service Award presented by USAA and the 2025 recipient, visit **NFL.com/Salute**.

GEORGE WALKER IV/AP IMAGES; DOUG BENC/AP IMAGES (Kittle)

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MISSION For more than 19 seasons, the NFL PLAY 60 initiative has been the league's national Youth Health and Wellness platform to empower youth to get physically active for at least 60 minutes a day and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

IMPACT Since 2007, the NFL has committed more than $366 million to youth health and wellness.

More than 2.7 million students have benefited from 5,000 NFL FLAG-In-School kits distributed nationwide by GENYOUth. Over the past 12 years, the program has reached more than 17 million youth, providing opportunities for them to be active and healthy.

After 19 successful seasons collaborating, the American Heart Association is expanding its impact within the NFL PLAY 60 initiative through the Kids Heart Challenge, uniting two influential programs that reach 11.6 million students and families across more than 20,000 schools. This collaboration enhances the collective capacity to motivate students to get active, develop heart-healthy habits, and learn lifesaving skills.

In addition, over 32,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners now participate in Unified Flag Football because of the NFL Foundation PLAY 60 grants supporting Special Olympics.

The PLAY 60 Movement will continue to serve and motivate the next generation of youth alongside the 32 NFL clubs and our PLAY 60 partners to get moving and PLAY 60.

Learn more about this initiative at **NFL.com/PLAY60**.

John Hart (left) and Bill Jacklin were recipients of last year's Don Shula Coach of the Year Award. This year's winners will be announced live on February 3 during the Pro Bowl Games in San Francisco.

Coaches Who Set the Standard

Every year, each of the 32 NFL clubs nominates a high school coach for the Don Shula Coach of the Year Award presented by Jersey Mike's, named after the Pro Football Hall of Famer and winningest coach in league history. The award honors high school football coaches who demonstrate the integrity, achievement, and leadership exemplified by the late Don Shula.

Last season's winners were John Hart of Brownsburg High School in Indiana (nominated by the Colts) and Bill Jacklin of Slinger High School in Wisconsin (nominated by the Packers). The coaches were honored at the Pro Bowl Games in Orlando and attended Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans.

This year, the NFL is again recognizing two winners. The 32 nominees were revealed in January, with the two 2025 Coaches of the Year announced live during the Pro Bowl Games on February 3 in San Francisco.

Jersey Mike's, the presenting partner, and the NFL Foundation are awarding $10,000 to the two Don Shula Award winners, while their associated high school football programs receive $15,000. The other 30 finalists each receive a $1,000 award.

The two winners are also being recognized at *NFL Honors* and other Super Bowl Week events leading up to Super Bowl LX.

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More Than Five Decades of Philanthropy

The National Football League Foundation (NFL Foundation) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those touched by the game of football — from players at all levels to communities across the country. The NFL Foundation and its members, the 32 NFL clubs, support the health, safety, and wellness of athletes, youth football, and the communities that support the game.

With a legacy spanning more than 50 years, the NFL Foundation ranks among America's foremost philanthropic organizations, delivering substantial benefits to team communities, participating in national and international disaster relief efforts, and addressing broader societal issues.

The NFL Foundation administers more than 50 formal grant and recognition programs aligned with its mission. It has assisted thousands of organizations across the country, from youth and high school football initiatives within and beyond NFL markets to large national entities such as the American Heart Association, USA Football, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and many others. Its efforts also extend to promoting and supporting social impact initiatives on a global scale.

Additionally, the NFL Foundation offers funding support and educational resources to club foundations and player-related nonprofits, ensuring they are equipped to make meaningful contributions within their communities and align strategically with league-wide initiatives. This includes ongoing support for on-field cause programs such as Crucial Catch, Salute to Service, Inspire Change, and efforts focused on societal issues, evidence-based youth character development, mental wellness, NFL PLAY 60 health and wellness programs, and youth and high school football, among other initiatives.

It also supports charitable fundraising activities, including NFL Auction, which allows the NFL Foundation to provide additional financial assistance to deserving nonprofit organizations and causes both domestically and internationally throughout the year.

Thanks to this enduring and stand-alone 501(c)(3) nonprofit structure, the NFL Foundation can deliver significant impact and provide vital assistance to communities, especially during times of need. Its involvement is essential in recovery and relief operations following major disasters across the nation.

Serving as a cornerstone of the NFL's commitment to positive community engagement, the NFL Foundation continues to advance its mission both nationwide and globally. For more information, visit **NFLfoundation.org**.

Super Bowl Legacy Grant

The NFL, via the NFL Foundation, seeks to create a lasting legacy of this year's game through its Super Bowl Legacy Grant initiative by awarding a $1.5 million grant — which is matched by the Bay Area Host Committee (BAHC) and utilized to create enduring community impact across the region.

This year, the NFL Foundation has partnered with BAHC to help create a meaningful legacy by providing underserved youth with life-changing access to sports and supporting a pathway to family-supporting jobs for temporary employees working at Super Bowl LX.

In partnership with the BAHC and the NFL Foundation, the Super Bowl LX Legacy Grant is supporting three Sports for All Hubs (San Francisco, East Palo Alto, and Santa Clara) and transforming youth access to sports. Each site begins with a community listening tour to understand the needs of the neighborhood and includes: (1) a new/refurbished safe place to play; (2) year-round sport for development programming; (3) youth sports leader training; and (4) interconnectivity to other hubs around the Bay Area. These projects will provide safe places to play, ongoing sports programming, and caring mentorship to more than 3,000 youth every year.

By providing historic support to Bridge to Work — the first-of-its-kind workforce development program — the BAHC and the NFL Foundation are connecting local residents historically excluded from economic opportunity in the Bay Area to good, stable employment. The program starts by connecting a goal of 300 participants to employment opportunities at Super Bowl LX, and subsequently providing comprehensive career support and quality job pathways. Target populations include opportunity communities, justice-involved individuals, veterans, and unemployed as well as under-employed residents. Participants in the program receive a temporary employment opportunity at one of the major events taking place in the Bay Area as well as resources, education, and certification toward career pathways in hospitality, transit operations, event production, media, local sports teams, and/or technology.

The partnership has catalyzed more than $10 million in community investments to create an enduring legacy for the Bay Area.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. ——— We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. ——— He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. ——— He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. ——— He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. ——— He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into

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by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. ———

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. ——— And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo Walton

Wm Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge

Thos Heyward Junr
Thomas Lynch Junr
Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase
Wm Paca
Thos Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th Jefferson
Benj Harrison
Thos Nelson jr
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

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Elbridge Gerry

Step Hopkins
William Ellery

Roger Sherman
Sam Huntington
Wm Williams
Oliver Wolcott

Matthew Thornton

Community Partners

The NFL embraces its role in unifying communities and serving as a force for positive change. The league and its teams are committed to implementing consistent and thoughtful responses to societal issues by educating the NFL family, instituting transparent policies, and actively engaging with communities to positively impact society.

The NFL Inspire Change platform includes the work of the entire NFL family — teams, players, the league office, and the Players Coalition — and it encompasses programs and initiatives in four key areas: education, economic advancement, police-community relations, and criminal justice reform.

Since 2017, the NFL family has provided more than $460 million to hundreds of grant partners — local and national — as well as grassroots organizations and social justice nonprofits selected by current and former players.

In addition, teams recognize community members making an impact on social justice issues with the Inspire Change Changemaker Award. For the last four years, each team has selected a "Changemaker," an individual who has distinguished themselves through their commitment to social justice in their communities. Each Changemaker receives a $10,000 donation from the NFL Foundation, paid to the nonprofit of their choice.

Learn more about the NFL's ongoing social justice work by visiting **NFL.com/inspirechange**.

Addressing Social Issues

In addition to engaging communities across the country, the league focuses its efforts on social issues that include character education, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking prevention.

All NFL and team employees and personnel — more than 6,000 in all — take part in mandatory education on issues surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. These sessions have been held annually for the past decade and are among the many ways the NFL remains committed to addressing these critical issues. Additionally, the NFL continues its support for its partners at Raliance and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

The league celebrates and recognizes those who work and volunteer in the domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking fields in the host city at the annual Unsung Heroes celebration during Super Bowl Week.

The league also works with the Super Bowl Host Committee annually to identify and provide financial support to local nonprofits that address human trafficking and homelessness in the host city.

For more information about the NFL's work on social issues, visit NFL.com/community.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The NFL's Inspire Change initiative focuses on reducing barriers to opportunity and creating progress in education, economic advancement, police-community relations, and criminal justice reform.

With the Inspire Change Changemaker Award, the NFL continues to recognize community members who work tirelessly to advance social justice every day.

To learn more about each team's Changemaker and about Inspire Change, visit NFL.com/InspireChange.

MIKE ROEMER/AP IMAGES (top)

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Highlighting Latino Fan Engagement

The NFL continues to expand its customized offerings for the more than 39 million U.S. Latino fans. This effort includes dedicated content channels that reflect the diversity of Latino fandom, such as Spanish-first football programming across Mundo NFL platforms (YouTube, Instagram, X, and NFL.com/Mundo), along with multi-platform media partnerships with Telemundo, NBC Universo, ESPN Deportes, FOX Deportes, Amazon Prime Video, and Entravision.

This season, the league celebrated "la cultura Latina" through its season-long "Por La Cultura" campaign, which spotlighted Latino players, coaches, and staff; celebrated Latino excellence; and shared authentic community stories. The initiative featured national and local cultural activations and two new spots, "Where They're Taking It" and "New Places," showcasing how Latino players, fans, and leaders are expanding football's reach — both by inspiring the next generation in U.S. communities and strengthening the sport's global growth.

Latino star power was central to this year's creative. "Where They're Taking It" highlighted how Latino players are driving interest in football and accelerating the rise of flag football globally. Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Patriots defensive back Christian Gonzalez returned to his hometown of Carrollton, Texas; NFL legend Victor Cruz brought the NFL to Madrid, Spain; and Brazil Women's National Team member and NFL Global Flag Ambassador Gabi Bankhardt championed the sport's most accessible format in her country.

The NFL Latino Youth Honors program with Procter & Gamble and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation was back for its third year, celebrating outstanding high school tackle and flag football athletes from across the country for their academic and athletic excellence. Sixty-two nominees represent the 2025 class, with eight division winners receiving college grants — including $25,000 awards for the male and female national honorees — and participating in mentorship programming during Super Bowl Week in San Francisco.

Building on these youth-focused efforts, the league will bring these celebrations and mentorship experiences into a new Super Bowl platform: the NFL Culture Club. Debuting for the first time during Super Bowl Week, the Culture Club will serve as an exclusive, immersive destination where sports, art, music, fashion, and community converge. Latino-focused programming will include the Latino Youth Honors celebration, as well as a special edition of the Latinos in Sports series — further underscoring the league's commitment to elevating Latino voices and talent across every touchpoint of the game.

Learn more about these and other initiatives at **NFL.com/PorLaCultura**.

Fueling Small Businesses That Power Local Communities

The NFL Source program has again set the tone for how major sporting leagues should engage with local suppliers. Launched in 2024, the enhanced program evolved from the NFL's long-standing supplier diversity commitment to funnel economic prosperity within local tentpole communities. NFL Source has been the intentional driver behind standardizing and strengthening the league's support of small and underrepresented businesses on a national level.

For the past 18 months, NFL Source has been on the ground, preparing the Bay Area for its local iteration of the initiative, Super Bowl LX Source, welcoming more than 100 local small and underrepresented business members into the NFL network. The program not only connects local companies with subcontracting opportunities related to Super Bowl LX, but also provides members with capacity-building workshops and increased visibility to compete in the NFL's expansive marketplace leading up to gameday. Participating businesses are being spotlighted in a business directory used by NFL buyers, partners, and sponsors to fulfill Super Bowl-related needs.

LIX SOURCE

Belynda Gardner, Senior Director, Development & Inclusion at the NFL, stated, "We prepare Super Bowl LX Source members to excel as event-ready businesses at the Super Bowl while concurrently showcasing the expertise and contributions of the Bay Area on a national platform. Economic growth, to us, means uplifting local entrepreneurs and providing enhanced visibility to a community's organic talent and achievements."

Super Bowl LX Source member Amy Kingma added: "I truly appreciate what the Source Program has offered to small local businesses like mine. The exposure to buyers, connections with other companies, and the support provided have been invaluable."

The NFL Source program continues to advance its mission to spur positive economic impact to local communities through real opportunities for local, small, and underrepresented businesses — leaving behind a legacy of a more inclusive and accessible pathway for small business to play in major sports.

Learn more about the program by visiting **NFLsource.com**.

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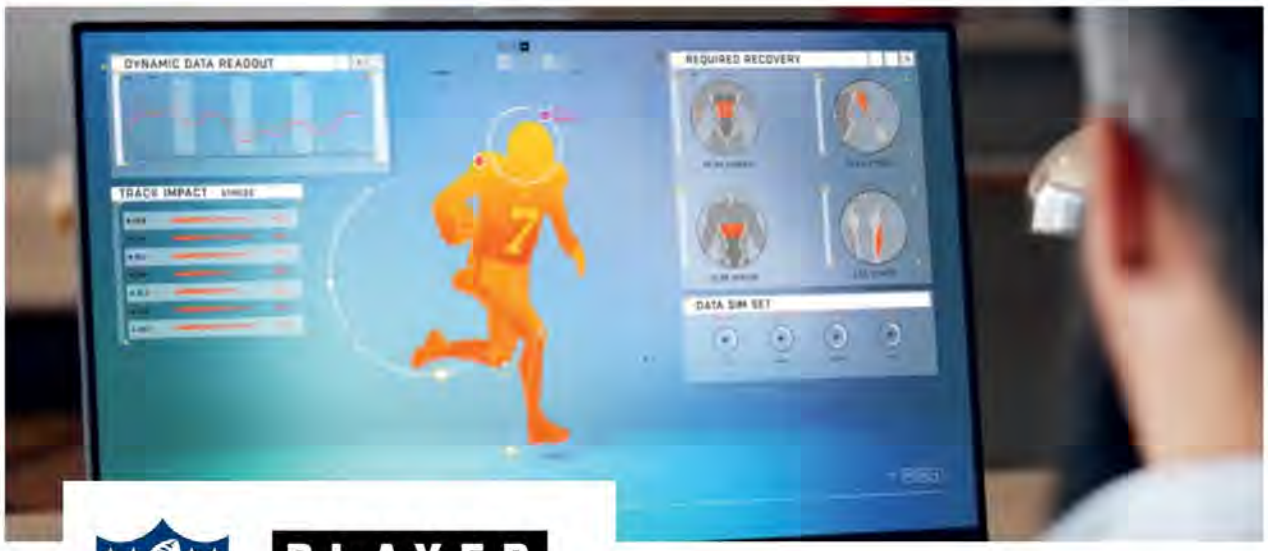

PLAYER HEALTH & SAFETY

BUILDING A BETTER GAME

By partnering with experts in their field, the NFL continues its efforts to make the game safer.

The National Football League is committed to making the game safer by improving the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of injuries; enhancing medical protocols; improving how the game is taught and played; and protecting players' overall health, safety, and well-being.

GameDay Player Care: When NFL players take the field on gameday, there is a comprehensive operation happening behind the scenes focused on one thing: providing those players with the best possible care. At each NFL game, there is a team of more than 30 medical professionals — both club medical staff and independent medical professionals — working to ensure the health and safety of the athletes.

Continuing Efforts to Drive Down Concussions: Long-term investments in improved helmet safety, along with rule changes, education related to proper technique, and ongoing research into concussion-causing events, continue to drive efforts to reduce head impacts in practices and games.

Driving Helmet Innovation: The league continues to drive innovation in helmet safety, providing data and collaborating with medical experts, engineers, and manufacturers to spur the development of better-performing helmets. This season featured seven new helmets available to players — all ranking in the top-performing category via joint NFL-NFLPA laboratory testing. Notably, laboratory testing results have been supported by recent on-field data, as players in top-performing helmets have seen a substantially lower rate of concussions than players wearing lesser-performing helmets. For the 2025 season, over 98 percent of players wore top-performing helmets. Position-specific helmets, designed to mitigate impacts more likely to be sustained by individual positions, are also available to quarterbacks, offensive linemen, and defensive linemen. These helmets reflect advancements in providing players with the best protection tailored to their position.

Added Benefits of Guardian Caps: The NFL began requiring use of the Guardian Cap, a helmet shell add-on device worn over the helmet for certain positions during training camps, in 2022 and has since expanded the requirement to additional position groups. Guardian Cap designed the NFL version based on data shared by the NFL on the size, frequency, and locations of NFL impacts. Data continues to support a nearly 50-percent reduction in concussions for position groups that wore them during practices. Starting with the 2024 season, players also had the option to wear Guardian Caps in regular-season games. Notably, Guardian Caps are optional in training camps for players wearing select top-performing helmet models that provide as much — and in some cases more — protection than a helmet paired with a Guardian Cap. For the 2025 season, 10 helmets were available that were considered "Guardian Cap Optional," up from six in 2024.

Reducing Injury Risk through Rule Changes: The NFL improves player safety by taking a data-driven approach to eliminating potentially dangerous tactics and reducing the risk of injuries, with a special focus on removing unnecessary head contact from the game. Over the past decade, the NFL has made more than 50 health- and safety-focused rules changes, including

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rules that protect "defenseless" players and penalize dangerous techniques. The NFL continuously evaluates and changes rules to evolve the game as we gather data to try to improve protections for players.

Reducing Lower Extremity Injuries: The NFL has also continued making progress driving down rates on lower extremity injuries such as hamstring strains and joint and ligament sprains, particularly during the preseason, which historically saw the highest rates of those injuries. The league has substantially reduced injuries over the past several seasons, particularly with the introduction of the newly mandated approach to ramp-up and acclimation in training camp that began in 2022.

Leveraging AI with the Digital Athlete: The NFL partners with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to use AI and machine learning to develop tools to generate better insights into injuries, specifically the impact of game rules, equipment, and rehabilitation and recovery strategies. One of the partnership's primary goals is building the capacity to predict the risk of injuries before they occur. In 2019, the NFL and AWS partnered to develop the Digital Athlete, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to build a complete view of players' experiences, allowing the league and all clubs to better understand and prevent injury. Using a range of inputs — including video filmed during games and practice; systems that capture players' speeds, accelerations, and distances; and sensors and RFID tags in player equipment — the Digital Athlete's AI-backed algorithms can inform teams when players are at the highest risk. In addition to individualized club data, the Digital Athlete allows club staff to benchmark team trends against previous seasons and a league-wide NFL average. The Digital Athlete's Computer Vision Head Impact System also was instrumental in developing the "Dynamic Kickoff," using AI to simulate 10,000 seasons' worth of the new kickoff rule, and the prohibition of the hip-drop tackle by identifying the frequency and location of player-to-player contact that occur during a game.

Data to Help Keep Players Safe: A critical part of the NFL's efforts to reduce and prevent player injuries is the collection and analysis of on-field data. Sensors in players' equipment provides the league with data from practices and games to advance equipment, improve training, and inform rules changes.

Throughout the season, the league collects data, analyzes it, and ultimately shares findings back with the clubs. Club staff then utilize the data and insights in their work with players, informing approaches to training and injury prevention as well as returning to play following injuries. This includes use of the Digital Athlete team portal.

Improving Safety and Consistency of Surfaces: The NFL is committed to providing the safest, most consistent field surfaces for players. The league works collaboratively with the NFLPA via the Joint Surfaces Committee and experts in the field to conduct extensive, cutting-edge research and testing to better understand field surfaces and stimulate improvements in the safety and consistency of fields. This work uses innovative tools, including the Biomechanical Elite Athlete Shoe-Turf Tester (BEAST), which simulates field actions to help inform the development of safer surfaces; and the proprietary STRIKE impact tester, measuring the energy absorbed by the ground when a player steps on it, to measure field conditions.

As part of this effort, the NFL and NFLPA introduced the Mandatory Practices for NFL Playing Surfaces and the Playing Surface Best Practices guide requiring all NFL fields to meet certain standards by 2028.

Smart Heart Sports Coalition: In March 2023, in response to the lifesaving emergency response provided to Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, the NFL launched the Smart Heart Sports Coalition with other major professional sports organizations and leading patient and health advocacy groups. The coalition advocates for states to adopt evidence-based policies proven to prevent fatal outcomes from sudden cardiac arrest among high school students — 29 states now have all three policies in place. The coalition also offers new automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and essential accessories to public and private K-12 schools and youth sports organizations at substantial discounts through the AEDs for Youth program, a collaboration with Coro Medical and Avive Solutions, Inc.

Working with Universities to Gather Data: The NFL continued its partnership with nine Division I research universities to collect data — through novel mouth-guard sensors — regarding on-field head impacts to inform injury reduction efforts at the pro and collegiate levels. These sensors collect kinematic data, including impact speed, direction, force, location, and severity. The data collected supplements identical data collection at four NFL clubs and is helping to inform injury reduction strategy, rules changes, and the development of higher-performing equipment, ultimately to help improve the safety of the game at all levels of football.

For the latest news and innovations in the NFL's player health and safety efforts, visit **NFL.com/PlayerHealthAndSafety**.

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The Play Football initiative is active during Super Bowl Week, including at Super Bowl Opening Night (left) and with the Play Football Field Day (below).

Growing the Game

In support of the NFL's vision to grow the game of football and engage youth, high school, and college participants, the Play Football initiative was launched in 2016. This year-round effort celebrates football at every level by connecting the football community and promoting the values of the game.

During the 2025 NFL season, Play Football focused on leveraging the league calendar to engage youth, high school, college, international, and external stakeholders, while ensuring alignment with all 32 clubs, current and former players, and strategic partners.

In collaboration with local NFL markets, the NFL Draft, Pro Football Hall of Fame Week, and Super Bowl host cities, Play Football delivers more than 25 annual events and initiatives. Collectively, these efforts engage in excess of 5,000 stakeholders, including young fans, players, parents, and coaches.

A major milestone was reached this past year as flag football came to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton for the second annual NFL FLAG Championships as an official NFL tentpole event, hosted at the Hall of Fame Village. The tournament featured 200+ teams, 2,800+ participants, and six international teams, with all 32 NFL clubs represented. The three-day event was broadcast live on ESPN, Disney, and ABC.

To further expand global participation and fandom, NFL Football Development partnered with Nike for the third consecutive year to host an international game. Saint Thomas Aquinas (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) traveled to London to compete against the NFL Academy. Play Football continues to collaborate with partners such as Nike, Riddell, and leading football organizations, including NFHS, AFCA, and the NCAA, to support football development at the college level.

Learn more about the Play Football initiative by visiting **PlayFootball.NFL.com** and join the conversation on social media using **#PLAYFOOTBALL**.

MADD and NFL Form an MVP Team

Through the support of partners like the NFL, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) remains the preeminent leader on the front lines addressing impaired driving and underage drinking.

For more than 15 years, MADD and the NFL have engaged players and team staff through meaningful discussions, training, and impactful stories to inspire safe choices that protect themselves and others from the consequences of driving impaired. In addition, MADD has been there to support players, staff, and their communities when their lives have been forever changed because of an impaired driving crash.

Despite years of progress, drunk driving in the United States is on the rise. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,384 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths in 2021. That's one death every 39 minutes — meaning that during Super Bowl LX, five lives will have been cut short. Every life taken is another moment — another reason — to keep fighting to end this national tragedy. If you, or someone you love, has been the victim of impaired driving, support is available at no cost 24 hours a day via the MADD Victim Help Line at **1-877-MADD-HELP**.

MADD and the NFL believe in a world where everyone is safe to live, work, and play — we urge fans to always plan for a safe ride. We invite you to join our movement of advocates and changemakers at **MADD.org** or by following MADD on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Together, we will not stop until we create a safer future for all and a world in which impairment puts no lives at risk.

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NFL players are an important part of the Crucial Catch initiative, uplifting the spirits of those battling cancer.

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The NFL, its clubs, players, and the American Cancer Society are committed to the fight against cancer.

Through Crucial Catch, the American Cancer Society and the NFL have worked together to improve cancer outcomes by supporting over 840,000 cancer screenings and impacting more than 1.9 million lives since 2012. While educating fans about the importance of cancer screening, early detection, and risk reduction, the initiative also raises funds for CHANGE grants that help community health centers and NFL-affiliated or in-market hospitals in under-resourced areas increase access to cancer screening. Over the years, funded projects have leveraged various resources to expand access to breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancer screening. In 2024, Crucial Catch projects impacted 281 participating clinic sites from 33 health systems, reached over 183,000 eligible patients, diagnosed 1,466 cancers, and helped to increase cancer screening rates by 2.9 percent.

Fans are encouraged to take action for their health by visiting **NFL.com/CrucialCatch** to find cancer prevention and screening resources near them. The site features the American Cancer Society's 24/7 cancer helpline, live chat support, and a cancer screening locator, presented by new league partner and leading innovative medicines company, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, which provides nearby screening centers and appointment scheduling. For more details on the partnership, visit **Novartis.com/NFL**.

The Defender quiz, in partnership with Sleep Number, helps fans identify their personal risk factors while providing educational tips for early detection. Users can also set up personalized screening reminders to ensure access to trusted resources and tools to reduce cancer risks.

Through the sale of Crucial Catch-branded merchandise, NFL auctions, and general fundraising, the NFL has raised $35 million to support the American Cancer Society's work to save lives by encouraging early detection. This year, Crucial Catch games activated both on and off the field during NFL games in Weeks 4-6. These games featured an array of in-game visuals such as Crucial Catch game balls, goal post wraps, field-wall banners, and branded on-field equipment for players, coaches, and officials, among other activations, to make the initiative come alive in-stadium.

Through the Crucial Catch and American Cancer Society Player Ambassador program, NFL players with a personal tie to cancer also amplify Crucial Catch's mission and vision through appearances, fundraising campaigns, and social media awareness campaigns. The NFL-funded grants are part of over 130 projects funded by the American Cancer Society that focus on improving cancer screening rates in communities with the greatest need.

NFL PLAYER CARE FOUNDATION

The NFL Player Care Foundation (PCF) is an independent foundation created in 2007 through a partnership among NFL owners, the NFL Players Association, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the NFL Alumni Association. PCF is dedicated to helping former NFL players improve their quality of life by addressing a broad spectrum of needs, including financial assistance, medical support, career programs, cardiovascular health, prostate health, and mental health.

PCF is proud to partner with one of the nation's premier medical providers, Tulane University School of Medicine, to conduct its Healthy Body & Mind Screening program. This complimentary national program is available to all NFL legends and includes cardiovascular, prostate, and mental health screenings. Each year, a screening is held in the Super Bowl host region, including this year in Mountain View, Calif.

Also, during Super Bowl Week, PCF is hosting its Eighth Annual Super Bowl Career Fair, connecting NFL legends with more than 35 employers. The PCF Career Fair is a culmination of the greater PCF Career Portal, a year-round job platform involving 2,400+ NFL legends and more than 140 national employers via monthly information sessions, career fairs, educational certificates, rotational programs, and more.

Since its inception, PCF has provided over $27.8 million to former players in need through financial grants, disaster relief, and mental health resources. Additionally, PCF has conducted more than 8,000 retired player screenings and has identified numerous life-threatening medical issues that were addressed immediately. The Foundation provides these programs and services with diversity, equity, and inclusion as a guiding principle in its work.

To learn more about the NFL Player Care Foundation, please visit **NFLplayercare.com** or email info@nflplayercare.com.

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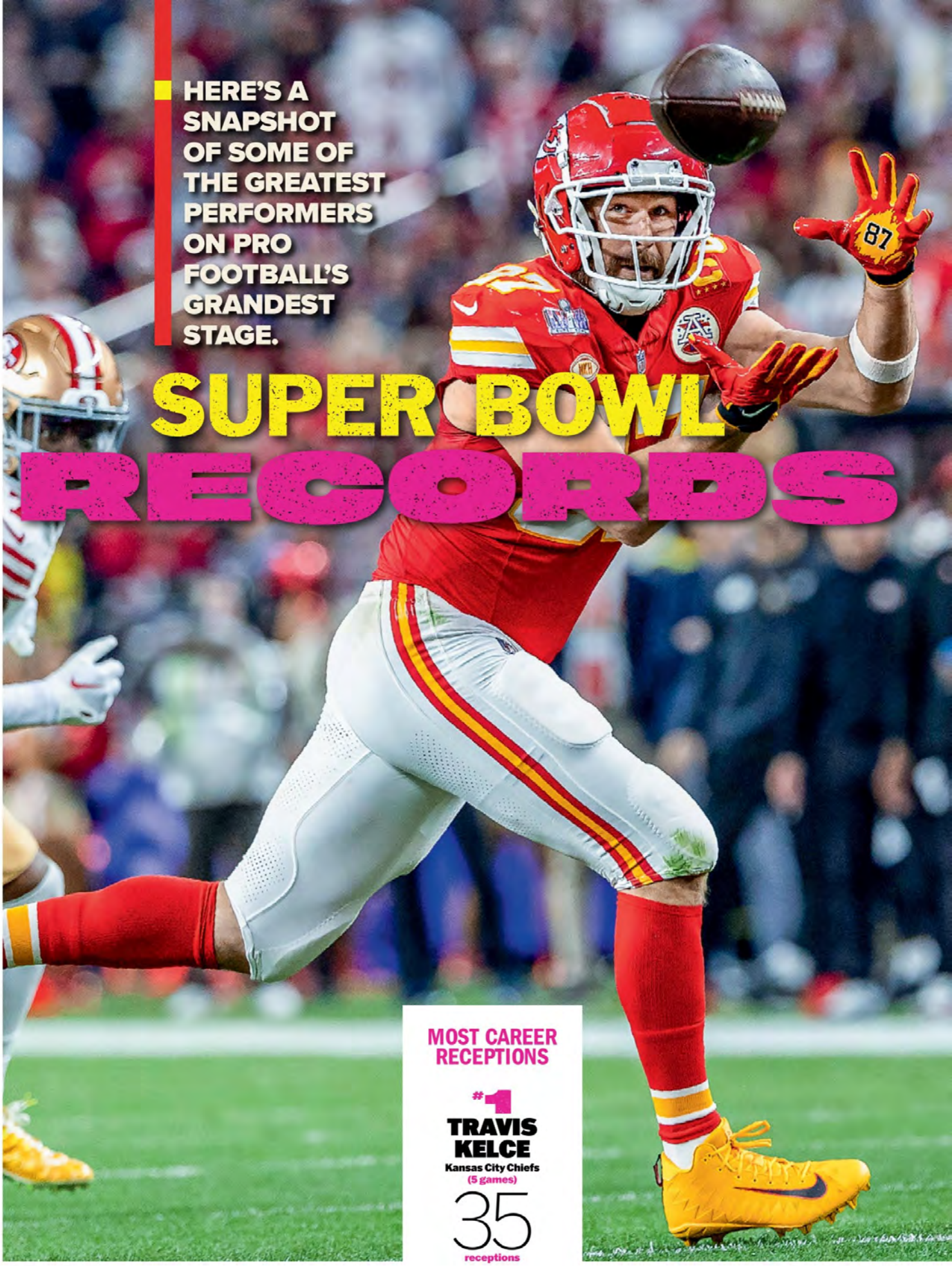
HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE GREATEST PERFORMERS ON PRO FOOTBALL'S GRANDEST STAGE.

SUPER BOWL RECORDS



MICHAEL OWENS/AP IMAGES

MOST CAREER RECEPTIONS

#1

TRAVIS KELCE

Kansas City Chiefs

(5 games)

35

receptions

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MOST CAREER COMPLETIONS

#1

TOM BRADY

New England Patriots
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
(10 games)

277
completions

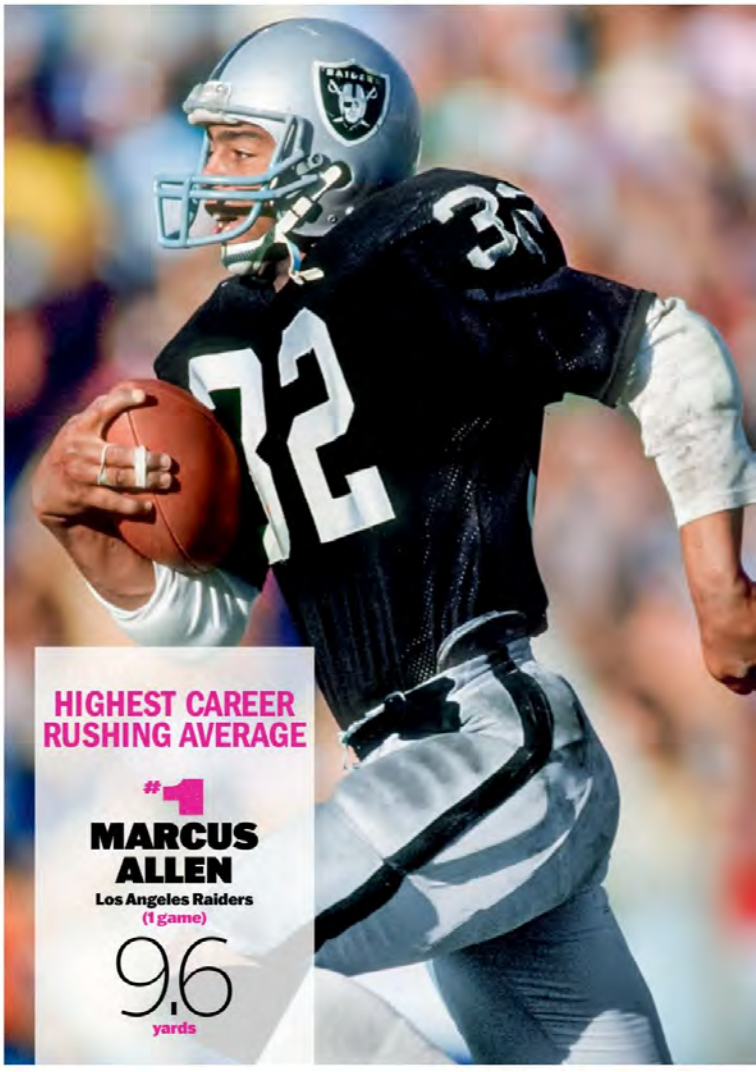
HIGHEST CAREER COMPLETION %

#1

JALEN HURTS

Philadelphia Eagles
(2 games)

73.3%



HIGHEST CAREER RUSHING AVERAGE

#1

MARCUS ALLEN

Los Angeles Raiders
(1 game)

9.6
yards

MATT ROURKE/AP IMAGES (Brady); CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP IMAGES (Hurts); ANDY HAYT/GETTY IMAGES (Allen)

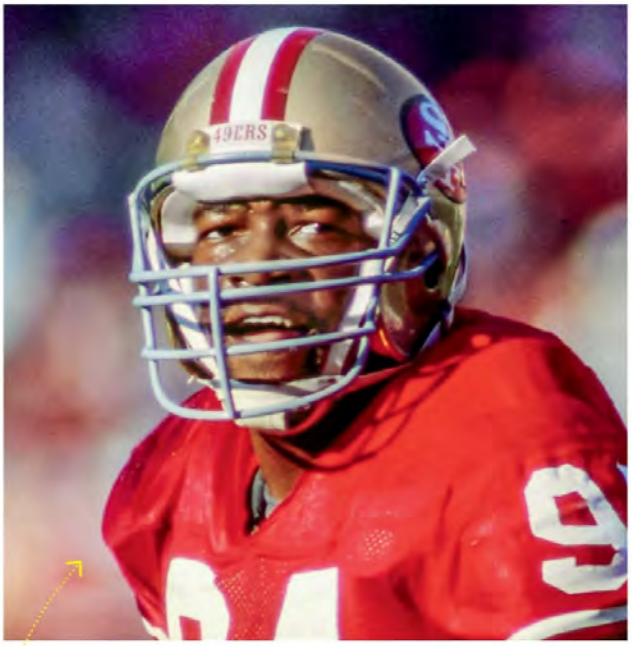
MOST CAREER EXTRA POINTS

#1

ADAM VINATIERI

New England Patriots
Indianapolis Colts
(5 games)

13
extra points



MOST CAREER SACKS

#1

CHARLES HALEY

San Francisco 49ers
Dallas Cowboys
(5 games)

#1

VON MILLER

Denver Broncos
Los Angeles Rams
(2 games)

4.5

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE/AP IMAGES (Vinatieri); GREG TROTT/AP IMAGES (Haley); PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP IMAGES (Miller)

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In Memoriam

CAROL DAVIS
(1932-2025)

On October 25, 2025, Las Vegas Raiders owner Mark Davis lit the Al Davis Memorial Torch at Allegiant Stadium in honor of and tribute to his mother, Carol Davis, the First Lady of Raider Nation, who passed away the previous day at the age of 93.

Her strength and resilience, although not seen by the masses, were always on display to those fortunate to be in her presence. She was a strong woman who exuded a compassionate and loving side.

Carol provided unbridled support and unparalleled guidance to the Davis family and the Raiders organization for more than 60 years. Her direct impact on the greatness of the Raiders continues to be felt, cherished, and honored, and is woven into the fabric of this historic franchise. If Al was the heart of the Raiders, Carol was the soul.

The First Lady of Raider Nation stood proudly beside her husband, witnessing the Silver and Black claim an American Football League Championship and three Super Bowls (XI, XV, and XVIII). Together, they experienced the greatest games played by the greatest players and led by the greatest coaches in the annals of professional sports.

Lovingly referred to as "Carolee" by her husband, she continued the tradition of him presenting a record nine inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when she performed those honors for the 2021 enshrinement of Tom Flores, who coached the Raiders to two of their Super Bowl titles and played for the team from 1960–66.

A year earlier, yet another poignant moment took place when Mrs. Davis became the first to light the Al Davis Memorial Torch at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas during the stadium's first game on September 21, 2020, honoring her late husband and his unyielding will to win.

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ad COUNCIL

THE END ZONE
BY DeMARCUS WARE

Iron Turned to Gold

Faith fueled a brotherhood that drove the Broncos to their Super Bowl 50 victory.

The journey to Super Bowl 50 began in defeat.

The year before, the Colts ended our run in the Divisional round, and that loss lingered with every one of us on the Broncos. We carried it into the weight room, into film, into every drill. It forced one question: *What will we do differently this year?* Our answer became a motto: "Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

Every morning, before weights or film, we tapped a sign with those words. That ritual became our heartbeat: *I'm locked in. I'm here for my brothers.* Over time, it welded us together.

Two leaders carried that standard. On offense, Peyton Manning — the Sheriff. Calm, commanding, brilliant. He even held early offensive meetings before the official ones. I can still hear him shouting "Omaha!" On defense, I was the Deputy. Our "No Fly Zone" secondary set the tone: *If they can't catch it, the big boys can eat.*

But no great season comes without adversity. Midway through that 2015 campaign, both Peyton and I were sidelined with injuries. It felt like the air left the building. Yet leadership doesn't stop when you can't play. We sat strapped to ice and recovery machines, playbooks open, watching practice through a small window as snow fell outside. The emptiness was heavy, but our absence demanded more from us — and from the team. When we returned, the squad was tougher, hungrier, more resilient than ever. By the playoffs, prayer was as central as the playbook. We prayed for health, unity, courage, victory.

On the eve of the AFC Championship Game, I asked John Elway for permission to use the Broncos' first Lombardi Trophy in the pregame meeting. Team security escorted me in carrying a backpack. The room went silent — why would I need security? I unzipped the bag and pulled out the Super Bowl XXXII trophy. You could hear a pin drop, even the sniffs of teammates fighting back tears. That was the trophy our general manager had won.

DeMarcus Ware (94), Von Miller (58), and Peyton Manning (18) celebrate following the Broncos' Super Bowl 50 victory over the Panthers at Levi's Stadium.

We were one game away from being in position to win another for Denver. I saw fire in every eye. We were cloaked in armor. You'll never hear any of us repeat what was said in that room — it belonged only to us. The next day, we won the AFC championship. The golden year was set: Super Bowl 50.

That final week in Denver vanished in a blur. One moment we were grinding through practice — the next, I was staring at the Golden Gate Bridge. San Francisco. Super Bowl 50. Everything hit at once: media, meetings, emotions, family, friends ... then gameday.

During the season, those who prayed slipped away to the showers — a quiet place, full pads on, away from the chaos. But Super Bowl Sunday was different. Every single player was there, shoulder to shoulder, crammed into that narrow space — cleats on tile, hearts pounding. We prayed. Then — silence. No music. No talk. Just an echo from God until Peyton's voice broke through: "Bring it up. It's time."

Walking through the tunnel, the clack of cleats echoed like horses on concrete. Then the sea of orange erupted as we stepped out. On that stage, as underdogs, we carried everything — the taps on the sign, the snow practices, the backpack, the prayers, the fire of brotherhood. Von Miller's strip-sacks, our defense swarming, Peyton's steady hand — it all came together. When Peyton took the final snap and the clock hit zero, confetti filled the air. The Denver Broncos were Super Bowl 50 champions.

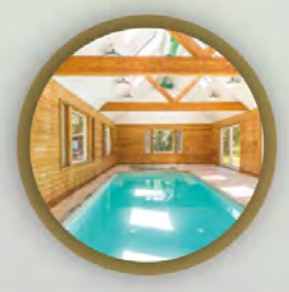
Later, I sat alone in the locker room with a brand-new Lombardi Trophy in my locker. I picked it up and felt its weight — not just of metal, but of the season, the brotherhood, the sharpening. Then a tap on my shoulder. It was the Sheriff. We locked eyes. "We did it," we said.

The golden year wasn't just about hoisting a trophy. It was about brotherhood forged in fire, defined by faith, and sealed forever in victory.

A 2023 Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinee, DeMarcus Ware was a four-time First Team All-Pro and a member of the Super Bowl 50 champion Denver Broncos.

PETER JONELEIT/AP IMAGES (top); DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP IMAGES

THE DUNES
EAST HAMPTON



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